

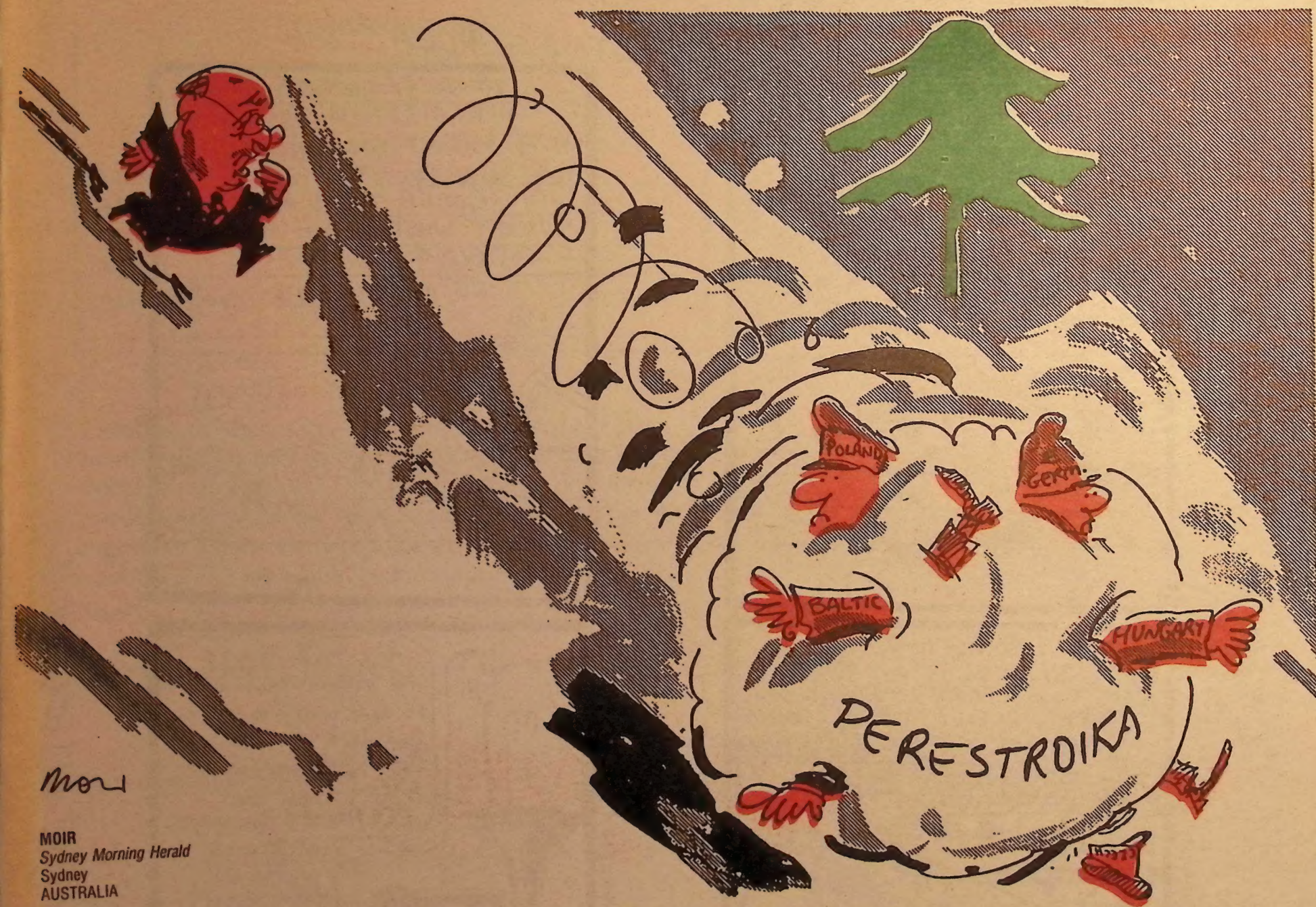
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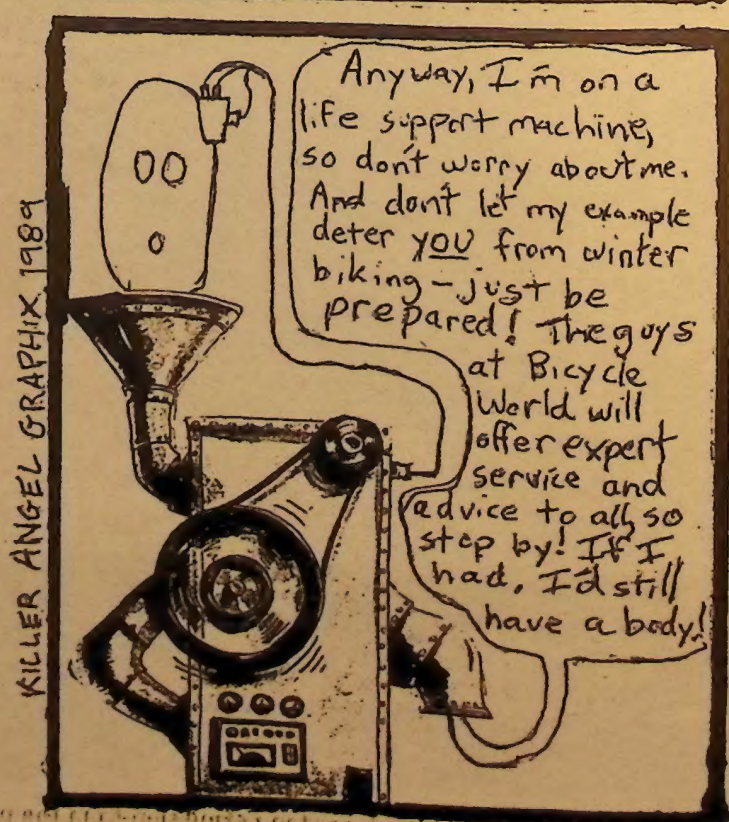
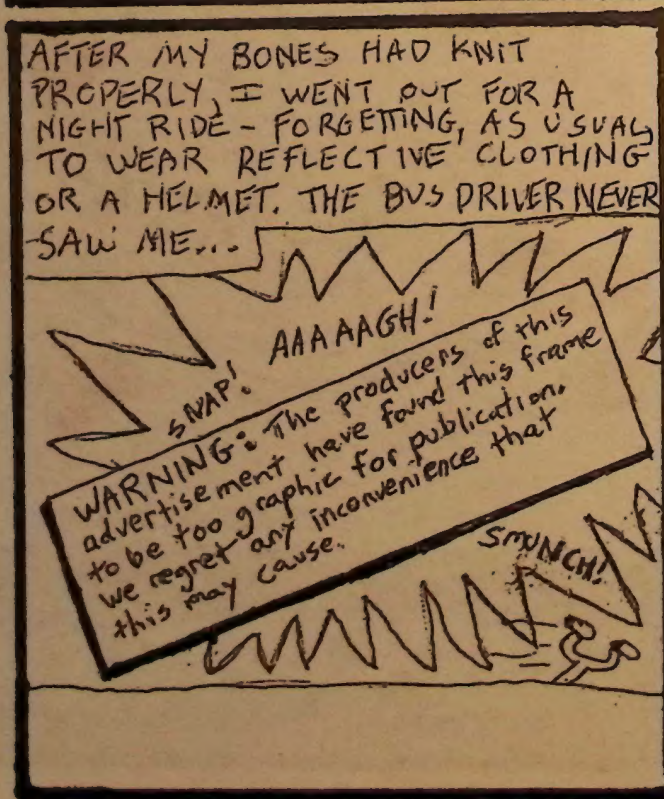
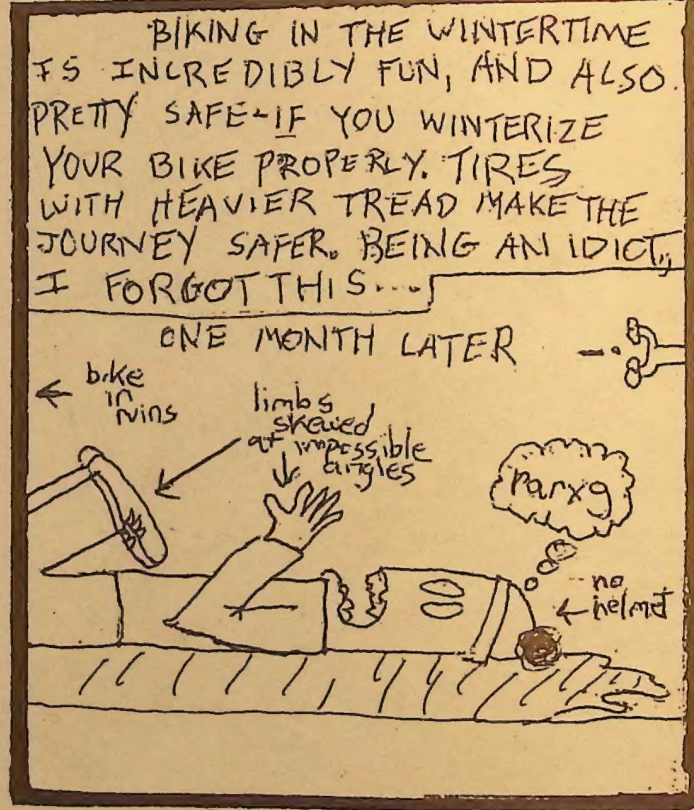
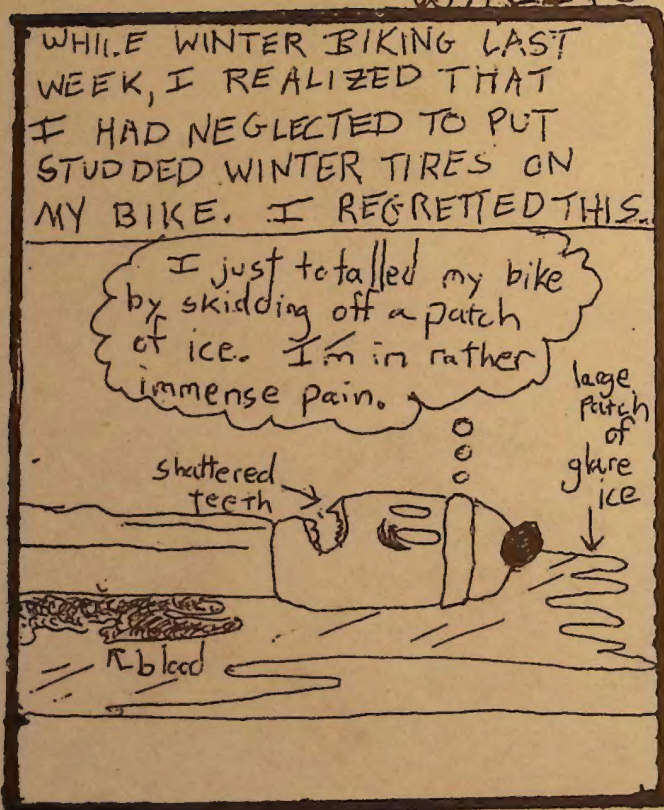
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I read somewhere recently that we could cut our 300 billion dollar defense budget in half and still maintain our global responsibilities. This seems obscene considering that many of our global responsibilities are those that we impose on others. Perhaps asking the globe what our responsibilities are would be more appropriate than telling it.

Have a great Christmas!

Editor and Publisher

David Hooks

(413) 586-2274

Editor and Publisher • David Hooks

Teacher, trouble shooter and all around Guru • Thom Zajac

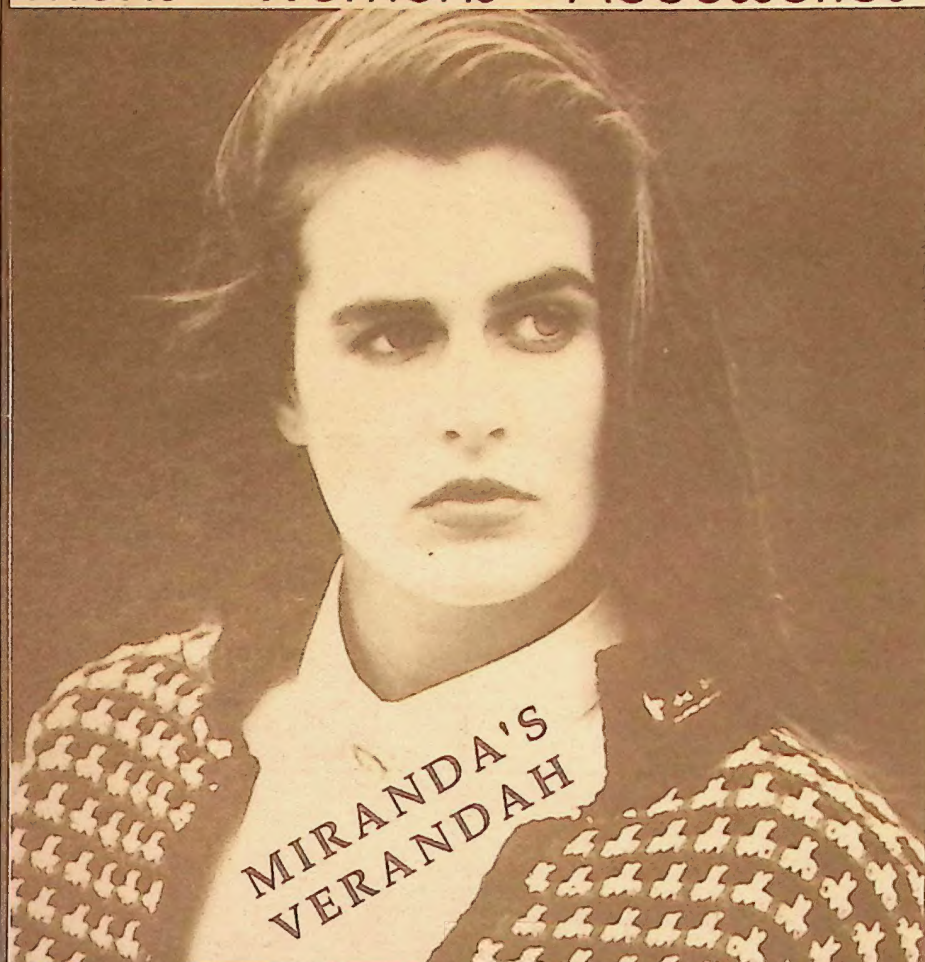
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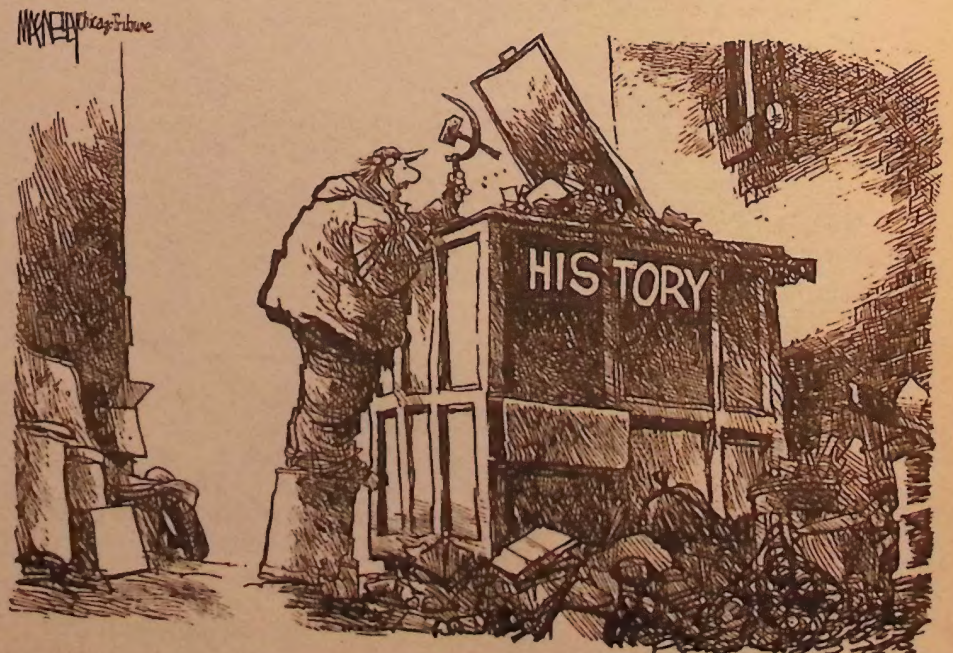
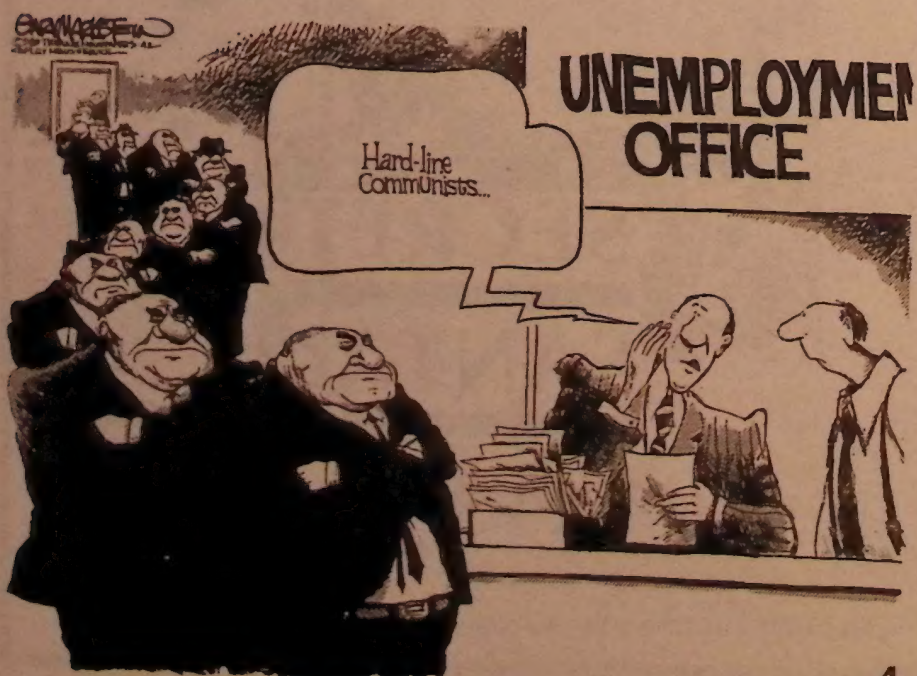
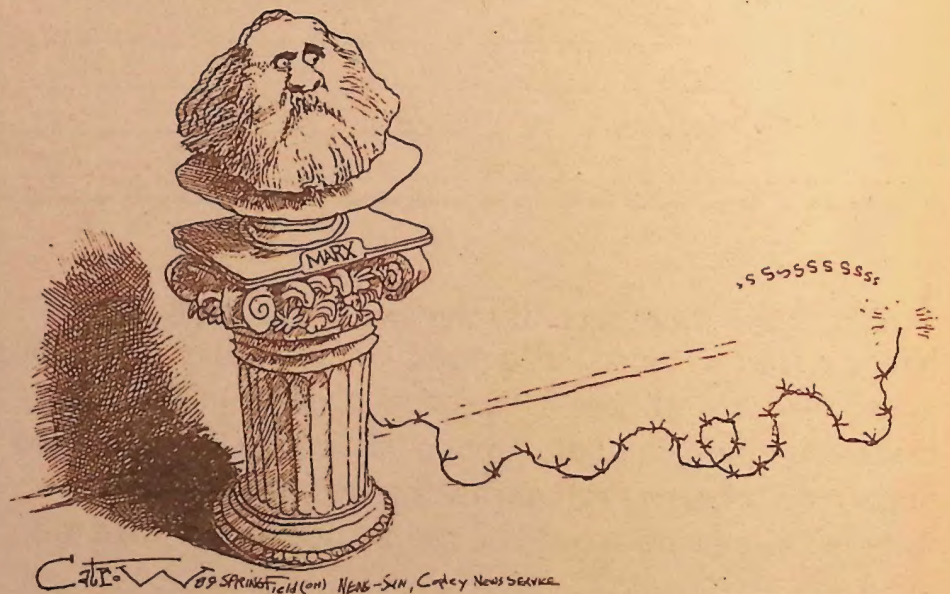


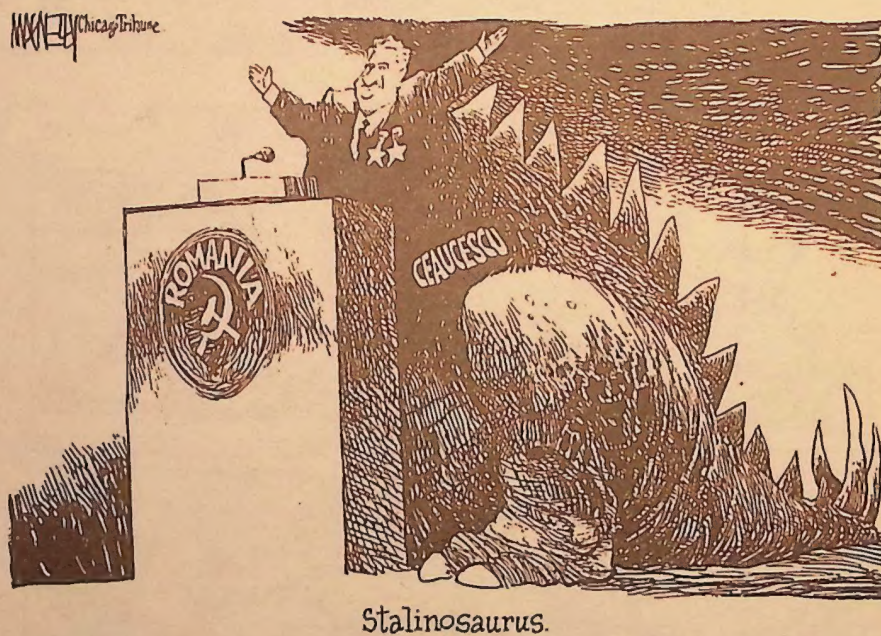
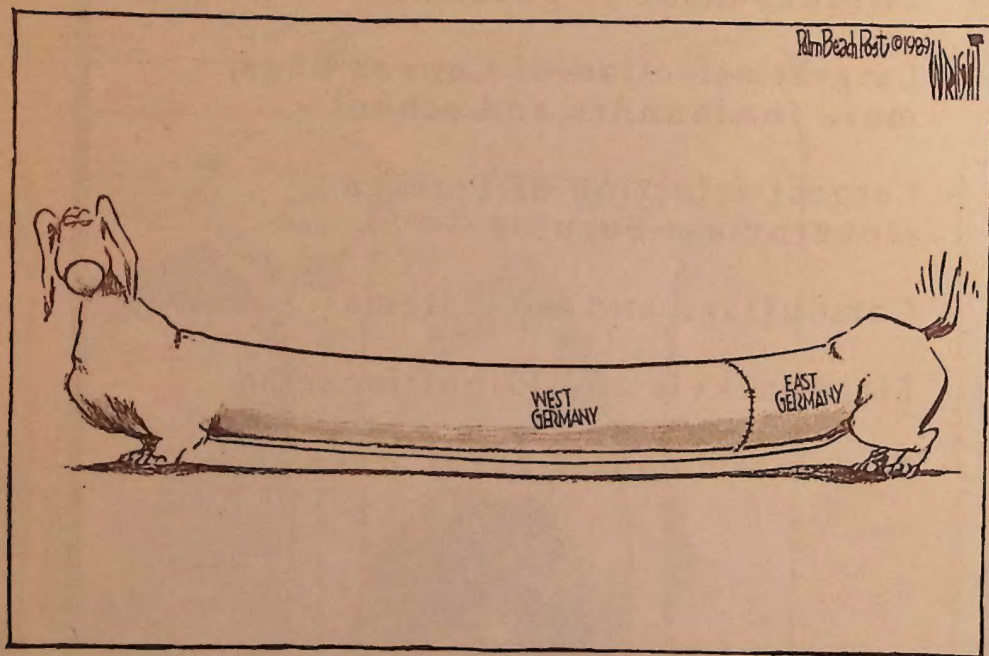
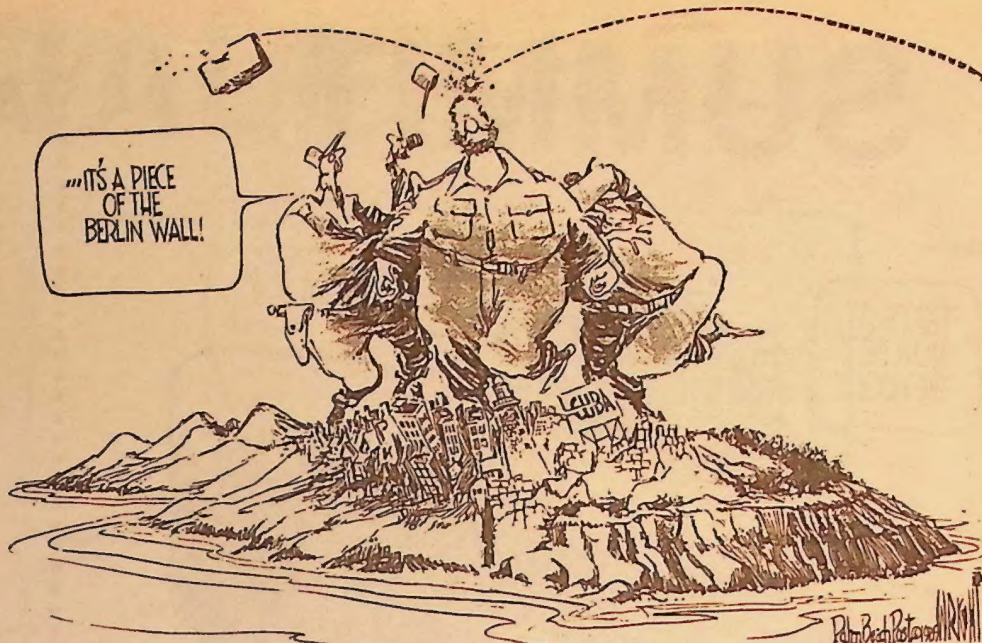
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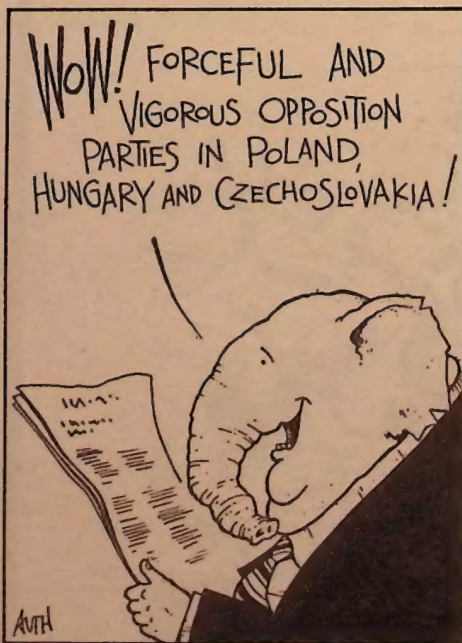


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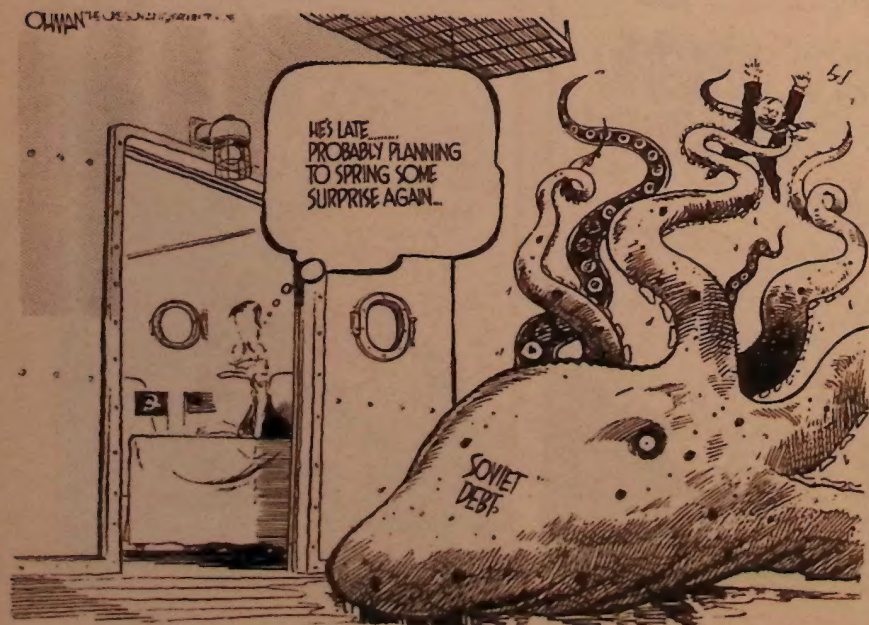
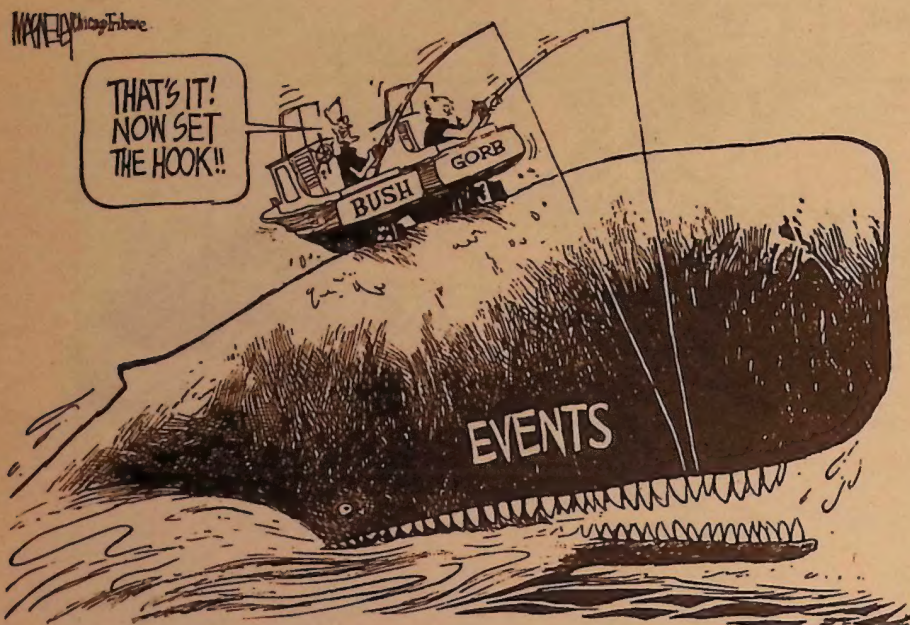




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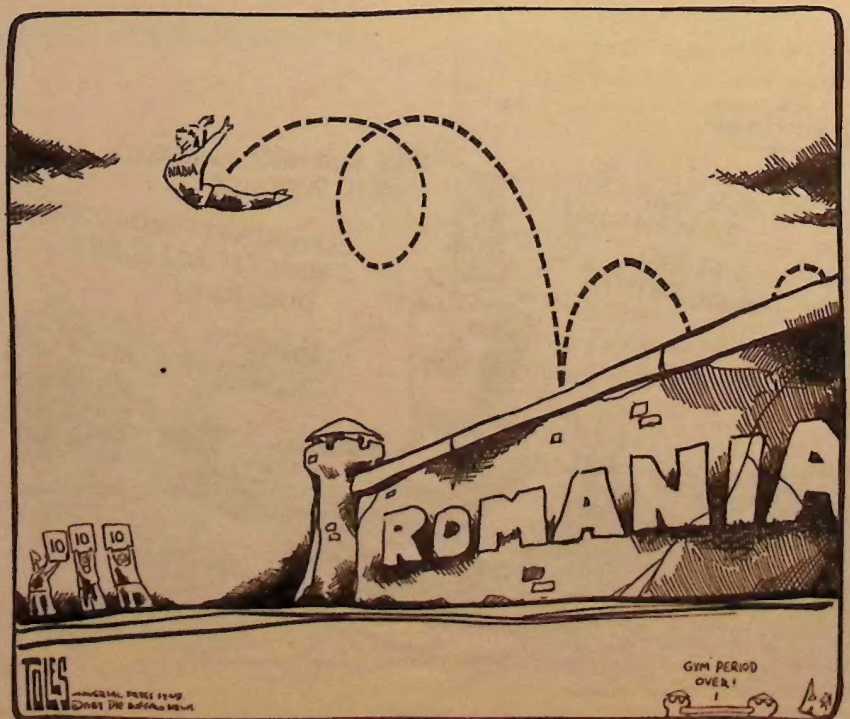
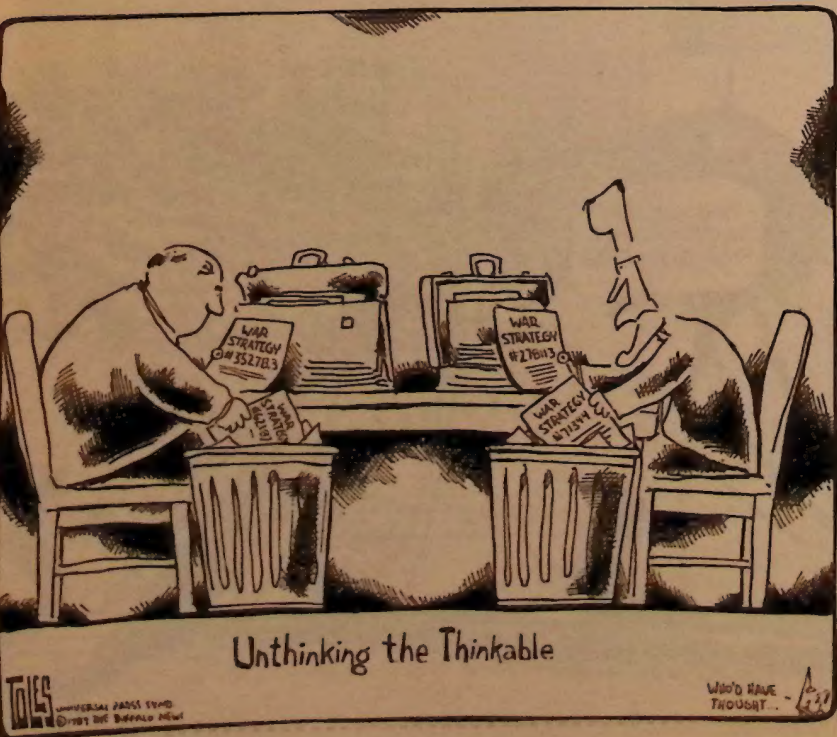
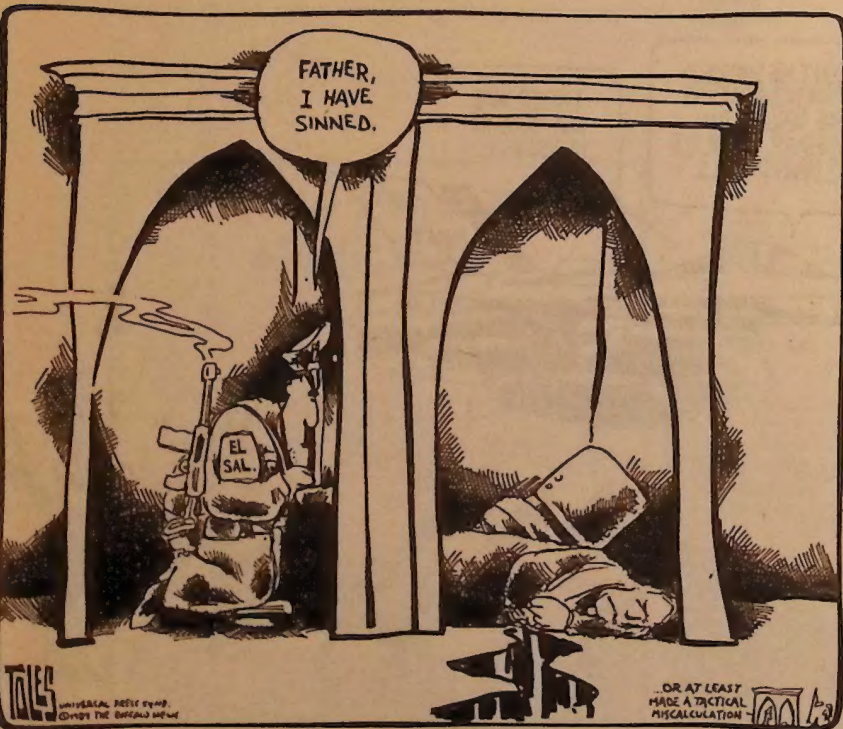
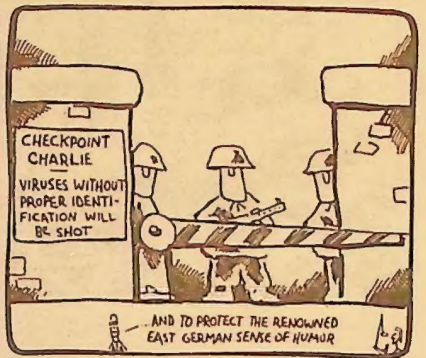
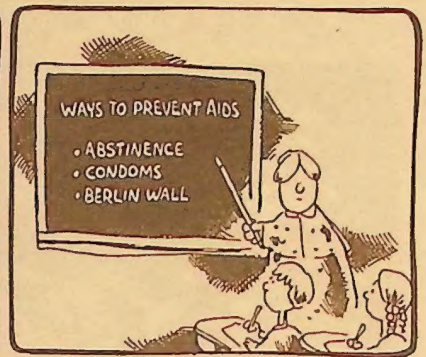
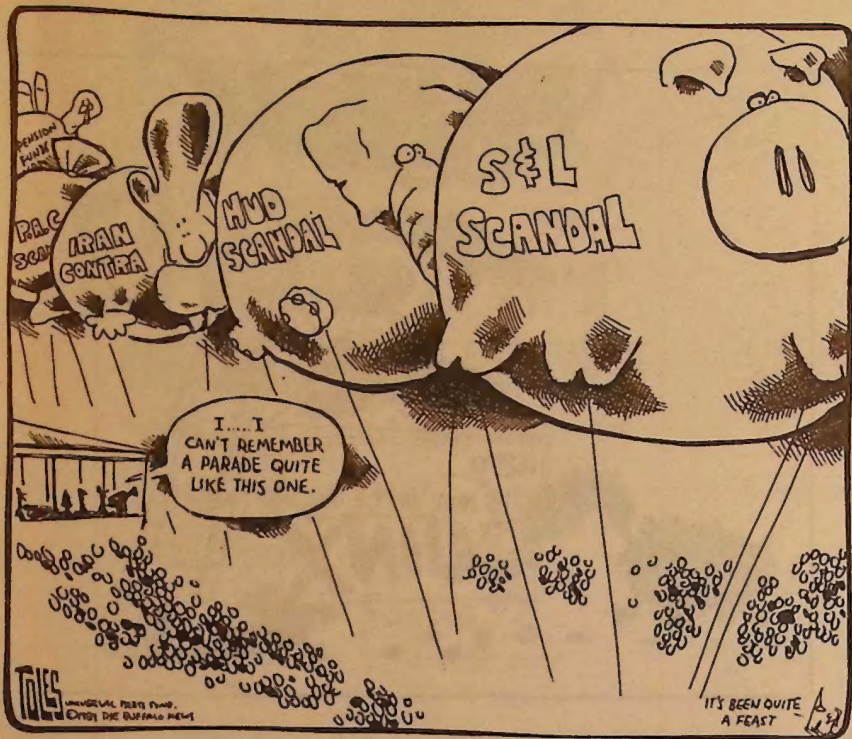
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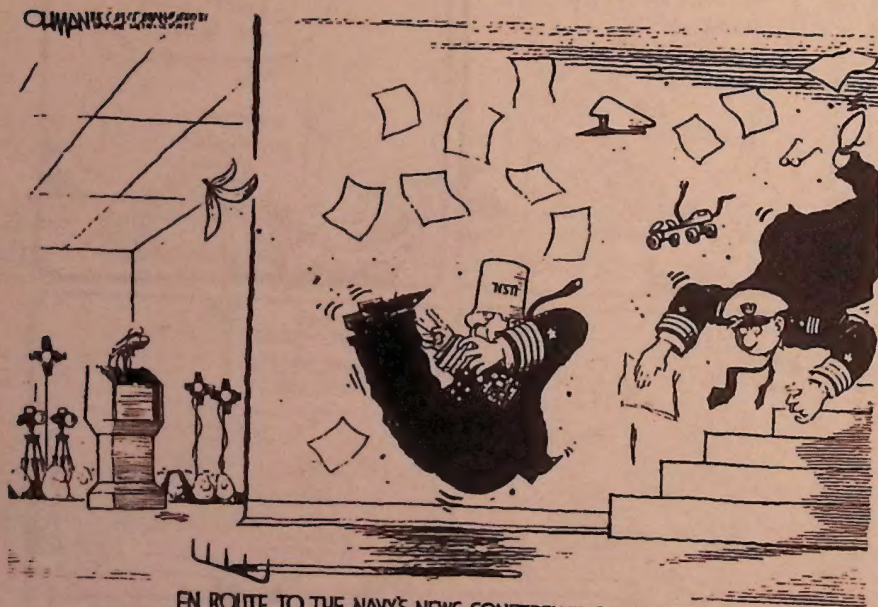
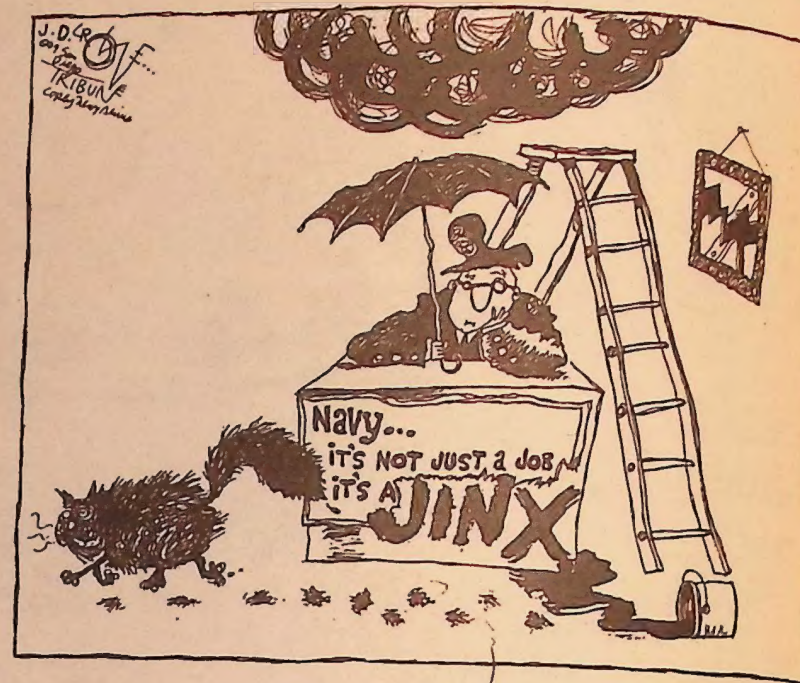
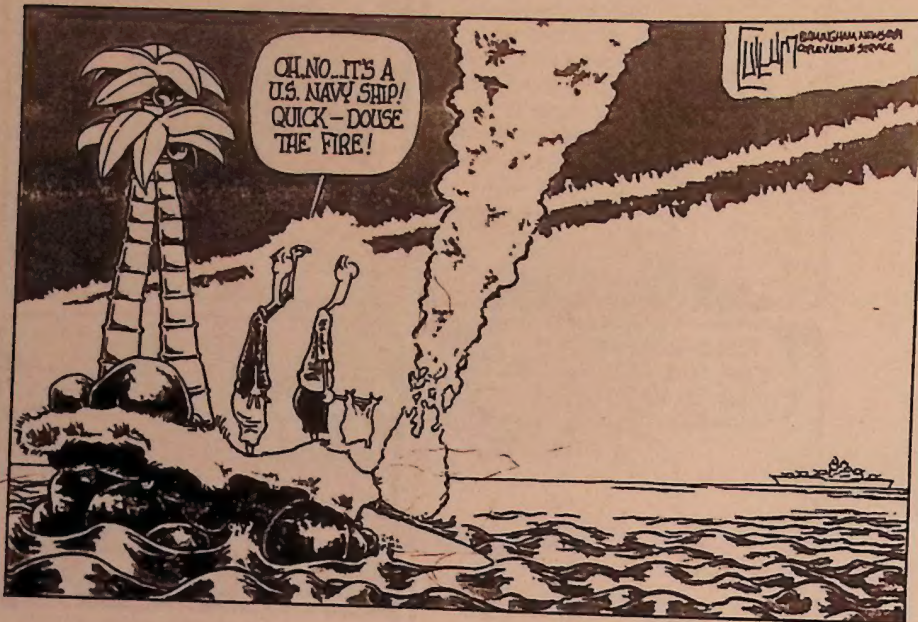


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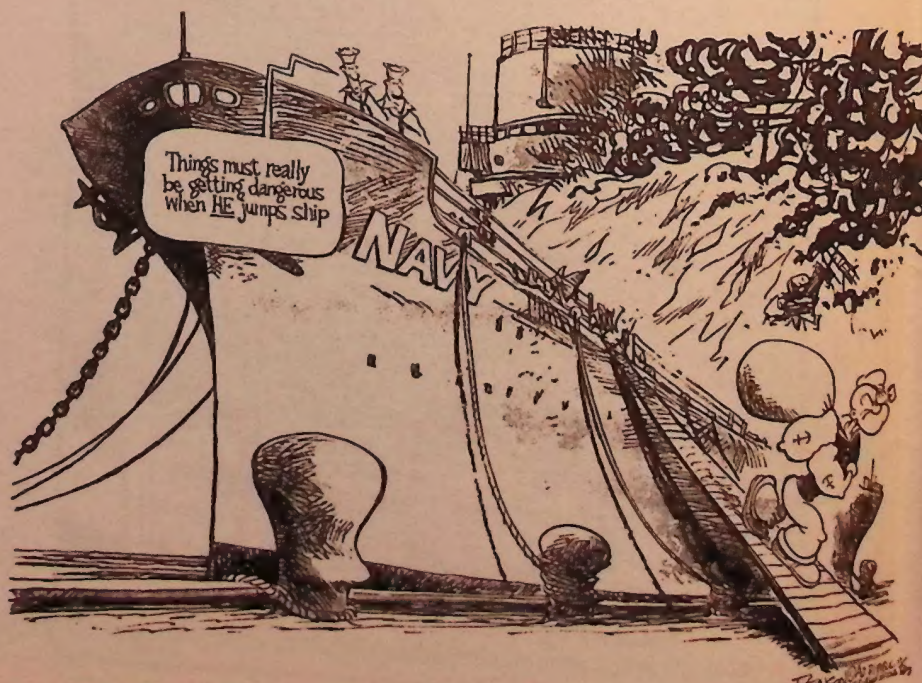
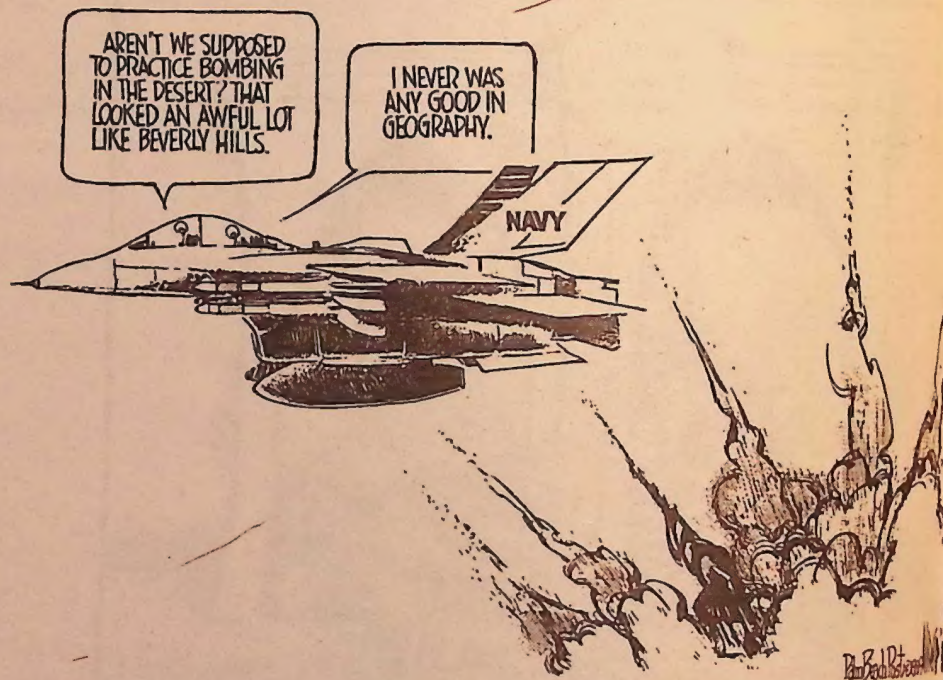
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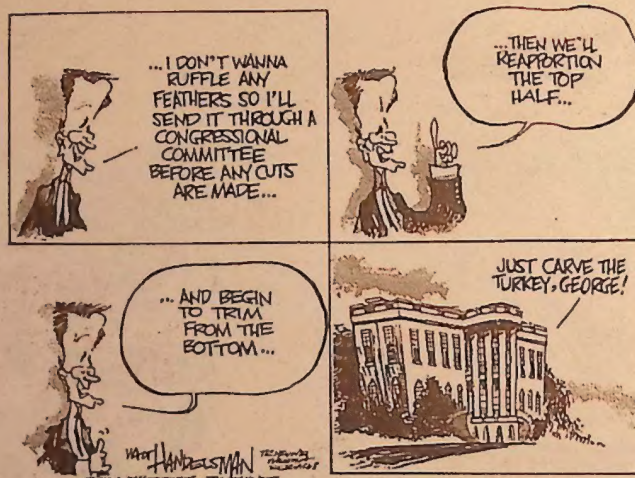


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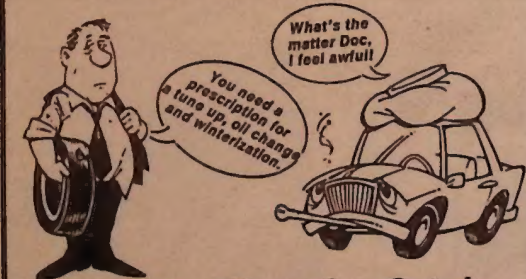
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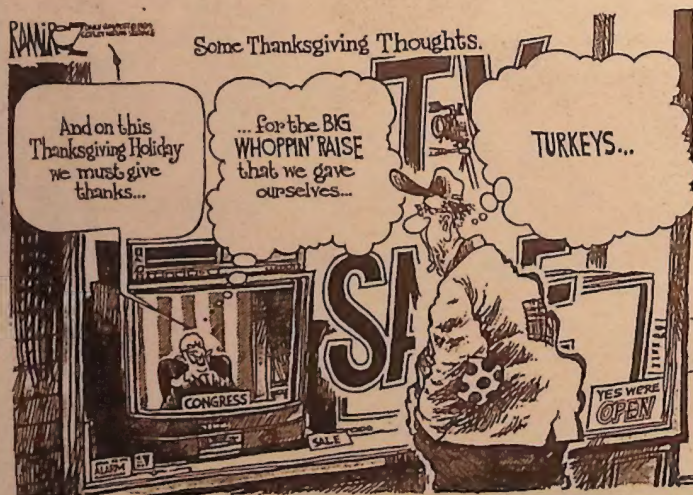
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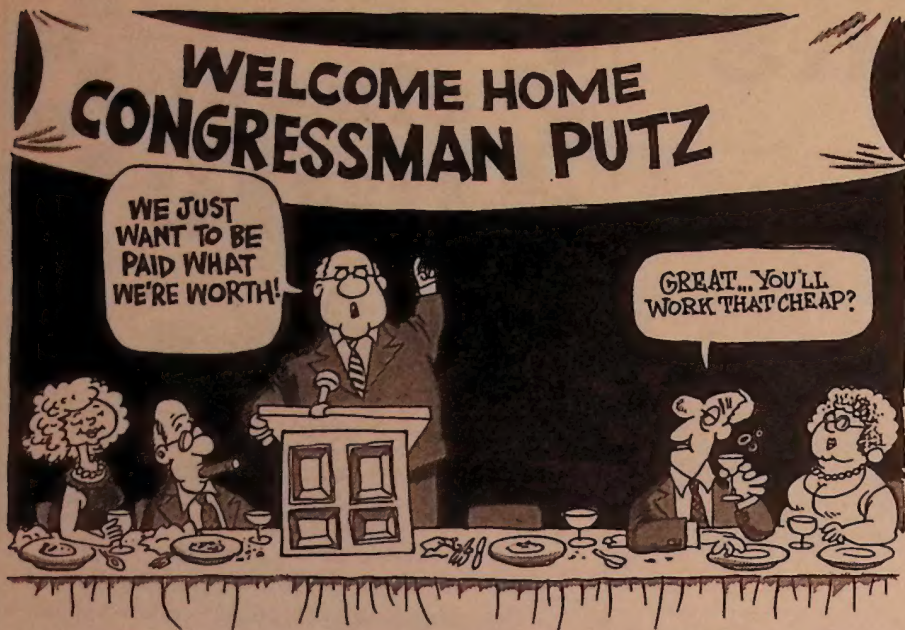
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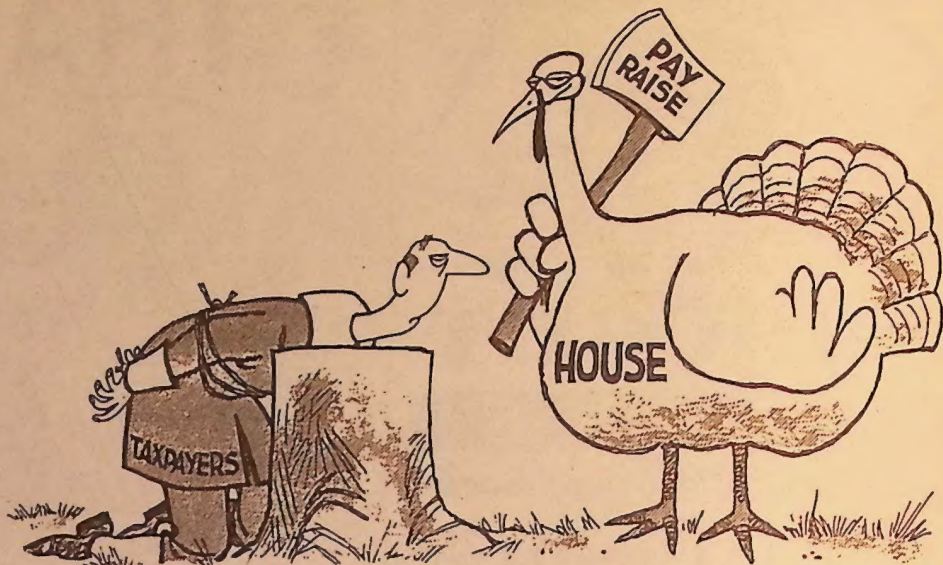
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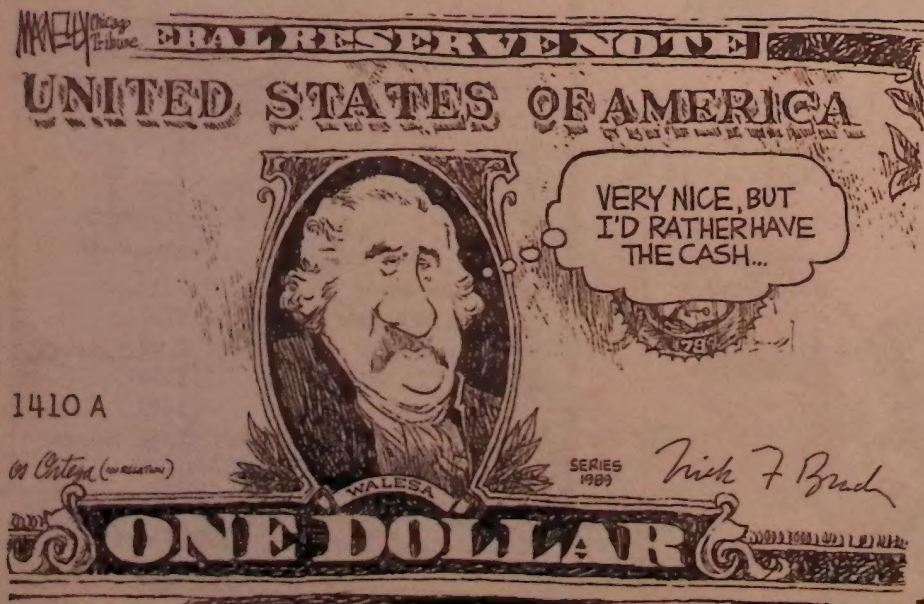
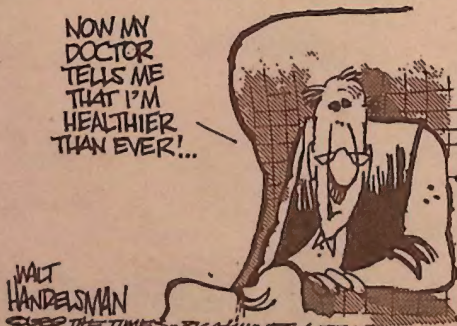
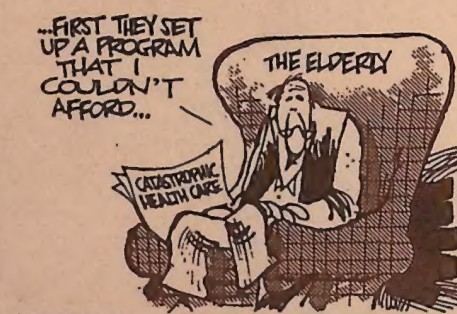
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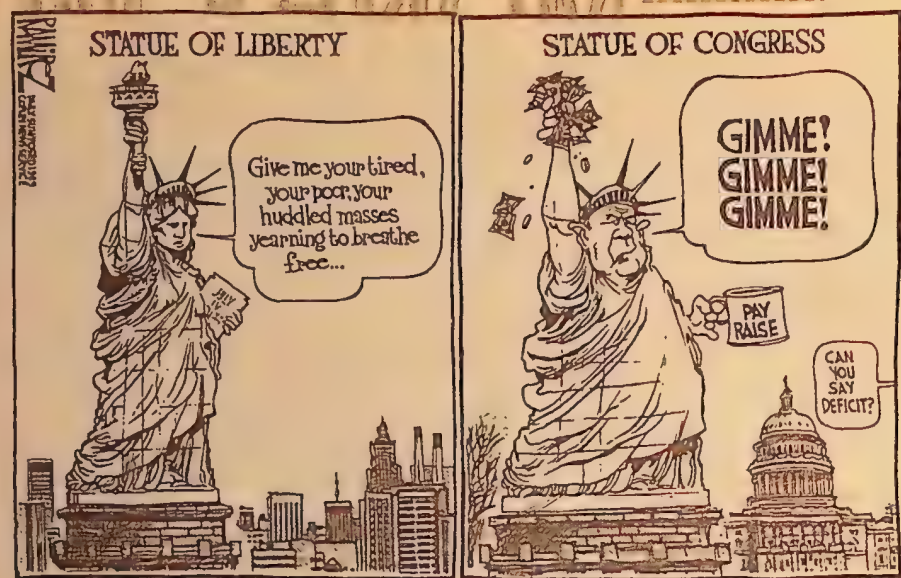


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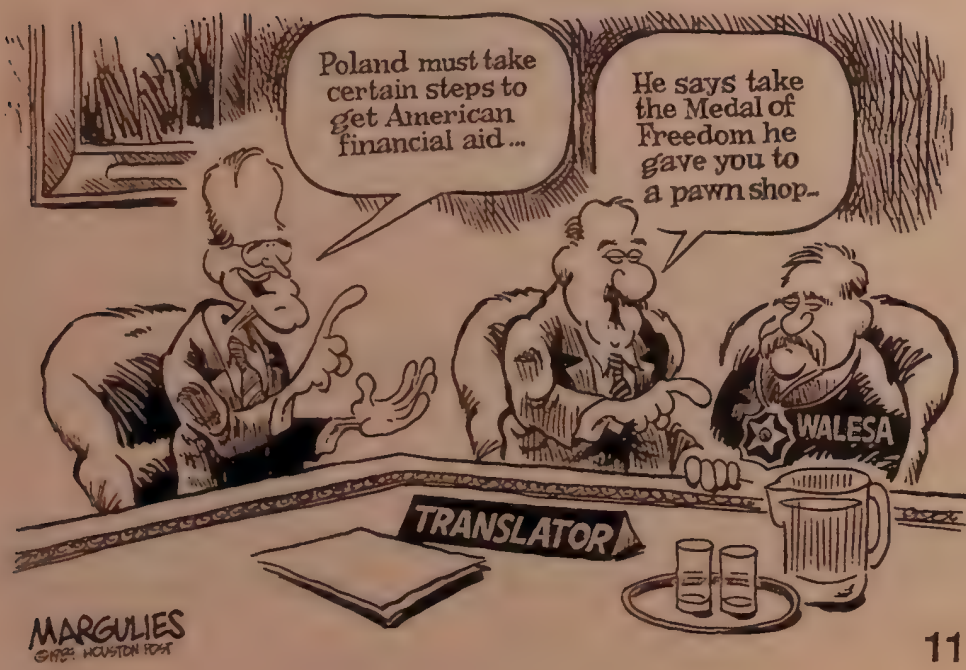
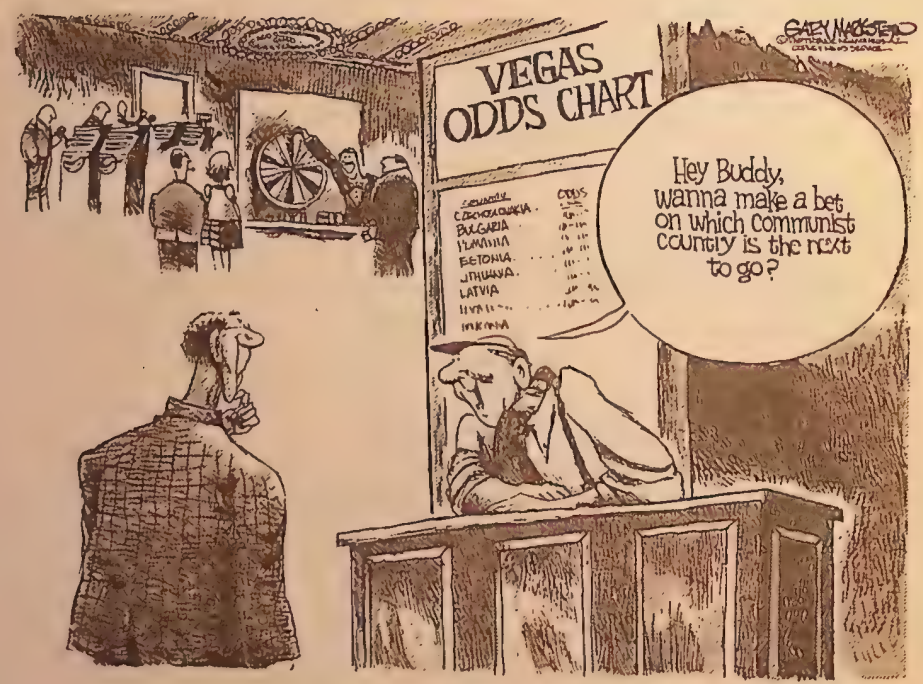




The Lord giveth and the Congress taketh away...



...NBC NEWS AND ABC NEWS WON'T DO NEWS RE-CREATIONS; CBS SAYS IT WILL.



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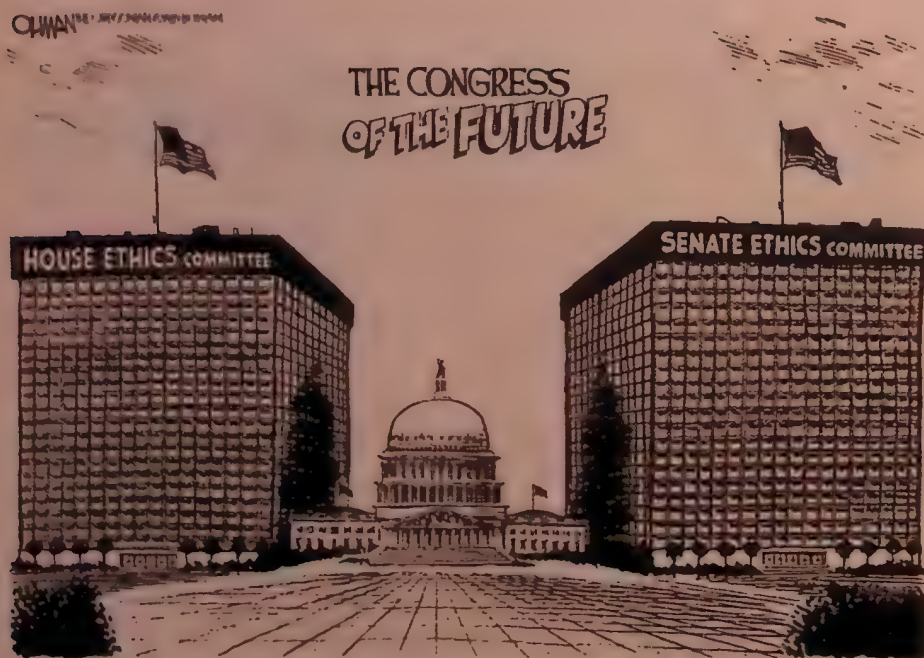


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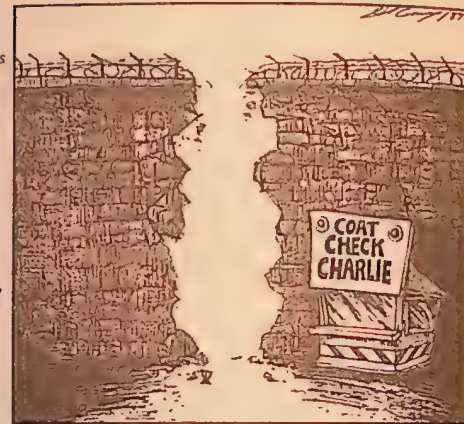
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President Andrew Jackson's mother wrote to him: "Never bring a lawsuit for assault and battery or defamation. The law affords no remedy for such outrages that can satisfy the feelings of a true man." You know Jackson was said to be mighty quick to fight a duel.

"We believe whatever we want to believe," said Demosthenes.

Big words don't make it into the Australian vernacular. They're cut down to a couple of syllables. It's a pattern down there. For example, "garbage collectors" are "garbos."

Am told fleas run about 80,000 to the ounce.

How many U.S. presidents have come and gone since you first got your present job? Johnny Carson took over "The Tonight Show" on Oct. 1, 1962. The White House show since has been hosted by Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan and Bush.

Experimenters injected lab rats with caffeine. Then noted they became much more sexually active for some long while thereafter.

Q. Did Noah take bear aboard the Ark?

A. An Assyrian tablet dated about 2000 B.C. has been translated to suggest that.

Elvis Presley never gave an encore.

New Year's Eve and Halloween are two of the year's three days when the most Americans throw parties. What's the third? Ask around. Somebody will get it right. Super Bowl Sunday.

Q. Isn't Hawaii the smallest state west of the Mississippi?

A. Not if you count its water. Indiana is.

Dolphins, too, catch the flu.

Opinion of a sizable body of psychologists holds that neurotics tend to marry neurotics.

A seasoned female editor assigned a young man on her staff to ask numerous women on what occasions they might lie to their matrimonial mates. Never, said far more younger wives than older. The editor said, Go back and ask those younger wives if they fight a lot with their husbands. He did. They do.

"Smoking kills," said Brooke Shields, "and if you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."

Those who know all about memory say the best time to study anything is just before you go to bed.

Nobody has identified intelligent beings not of this earth. But mathematicians have used the law of averages to estimate whether such exist. And they claim said law indicates intelligent beings live on 270 planets.

Alexander Graham Bell thought you could educate yourself by continually putting three words into practice: "Observe, remember, compare."

The mother coyote digs two dens, if she can find places to do so. One for the offspring. Another for herself to get away from the offspring. The father coyote digs a den, too. For himself. To get away from all of them.

Space show watchers say the five-year mission of the Starship Enterprise lasted three years.

Claim is people of Africa's Zaire speak more than 200 different languages.

The big pharmaceutical industry has come up with another easy way to give your youngster medicine. A squirt at a time from aerosol cans. I mentioned it to a city editor who's conscious of the hole in the ozone layer. "Great!" she said. "Cure the kid and exterminate the human race."

No names distinguish male and female among camels. Not like bull and cow for cattle. But the young are also called calves.

"Get it right," directs a client. "The five stages of drunkenness are: Verbose, jocose, lachrymose, bellicose and comatose."

FUN

A scholar reporting on recent sexual research contends, "All animals experience sadness after lovemaking."

A movie company negotiated with officials of the North Dakota State Prison at Bismarck to film a breakout sequence. And received permission to hire as technical adviser a lifer with a record of numerous escapes. But when the film crew got there, he was gone.

You don't suppose flowers killed the dinosaurs, do you? Was about the time the Earth got flowers that the dinosaurs died out.

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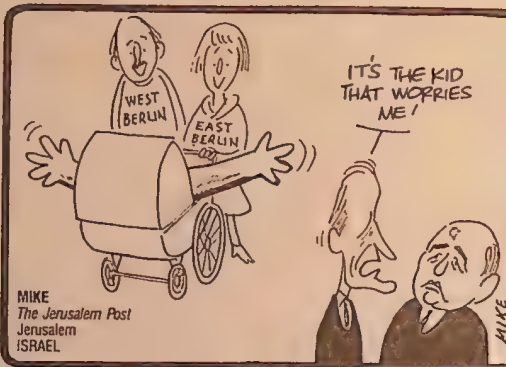
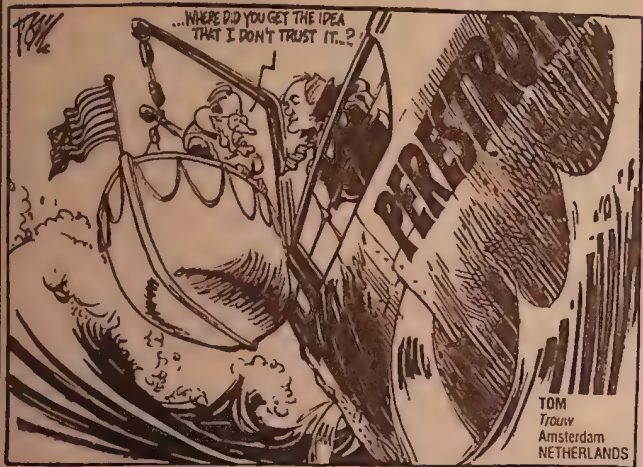
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SOUTH PLEASANT

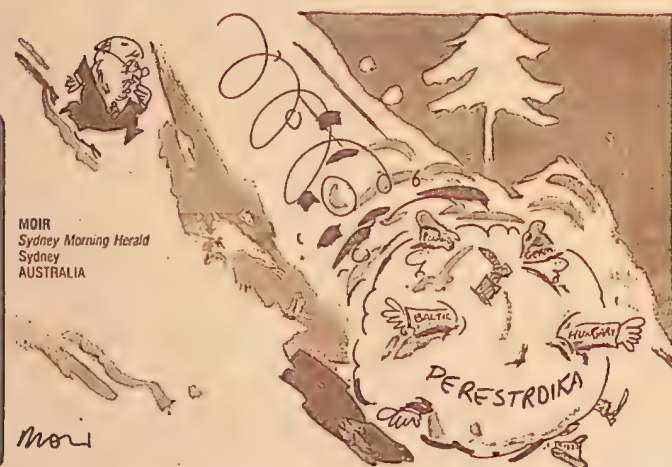
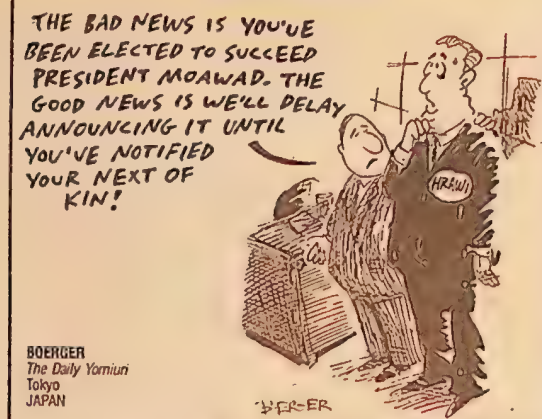
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Views of the World®



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High heels force an arching of the spine. So push out both bustline and posterior. Medicos call this condition "lordosis." In rural lingo, it's "swayback." Experts say "this occasional posture in lower mammals indicates a readiness to mate." They do not imply that high heels so indicate. But they wonder if male observers react with a latent lower-mammal response.

Downtown Los Angeles is near four major faults — San Andreas, Newport-Inglewood, Sierra Madre and Whittier. Not all experts think this heightens the danger. Some say it prompts little quakes so prevents big ones.

Marijuana induces paranoia, or intensifies it, medical specialists have claimed. Maybe so. A client writes: "My grandfather first started smoking pot a couple of years ago. Within a few months, he became convinced the whole family wanted to do him in, so we could inherit. He started spending all his money. Just for revenge."

If you were in the Army, you learned in basic training the word "nomenclature" meant the names of all the gear you worked with. But that's not what it meant in Ancient Rome. A Nomenclature was a slave. Whose job it was while walking with his master to remember names of people they met. Sort of like a legislative aide.

Say the earth were the size of a tennis ball. On scale, the sun would be 12 feet 6 inches across and weigh three tons.

"Humility is the foundation of all the virtues," said Confucius.

"Nothing is more despicable than respect based on fear," wrote that French sage Albert Camus.

It has been pointed out that in size the human body is about mid-way in scale between an atom and a star.

Not only was George Washington Carver an accomplished painter, but in his later years he created his own paint and brushes.

Get caught spitting on the street in Singapore, and you'll be fined \$245. On the spot.



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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET


Front Line of Winter

 At least 19 people were killed and hundreds more were injured during a two-day outbreak of tornadoes in seven southeastern states. The hardest hit city was Huntsville, Alabama, where four twisters struck during the afternoon rush hour and destroyed a shopping center, churches and homes. Cars along the city's highways were tossed into piles 10-12 feet high. One of the Huntsville tornadoes raked a path of destruction four miles long and a half-mile wide.


The Atlanta metropolitan area was lashed by hail, high winds, and an after-dark tornado that tossed a television remote truck several feet in the air just seconds after the TV photographer stepped from it.

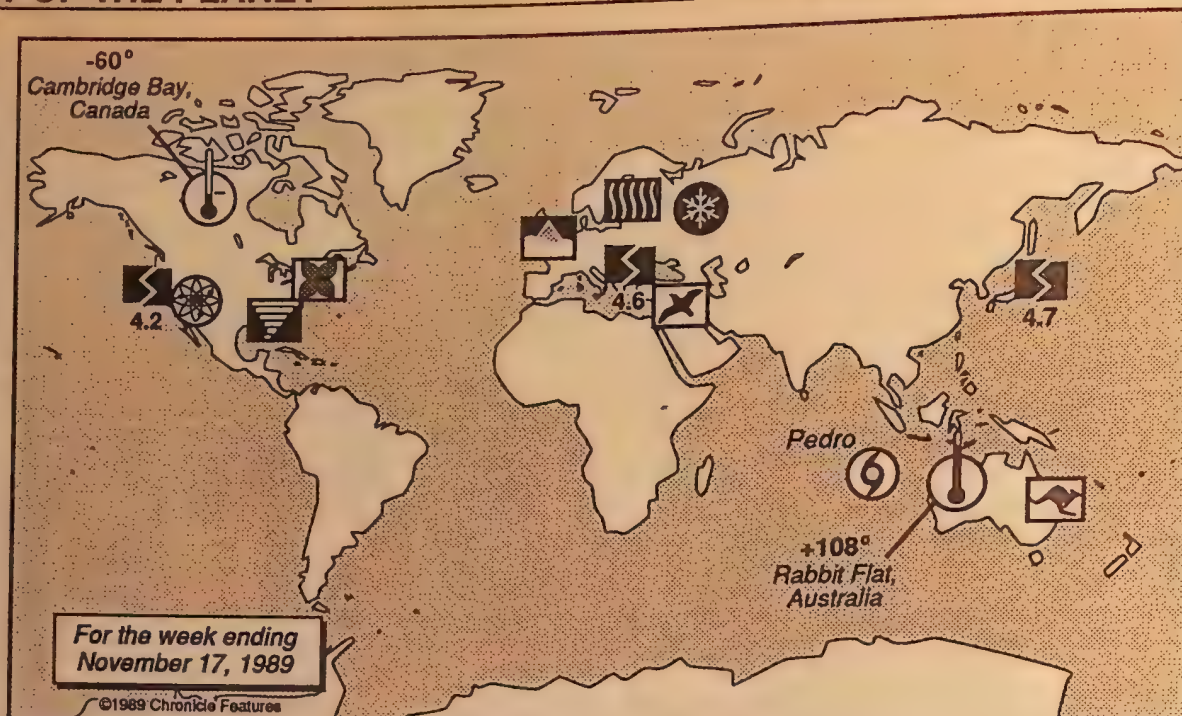
The unusual swarm of autumn tornadoes occurred as a Siberian cold wave ended a two-week period of record warmth in the region.

London Fog


 Thick fog blanketed southern England on Nov. 13 and caused a 30-car pileup on the A45 motorway northeast of London. Incoming British Airways intercontinental flights had to be diverted to other European airports due to runway visibilities of under 200 yards.

Moscow Snow


 The first snow to fall on the Soviet capital this season arrived a little more than a month later than normal. "Fluffy snow, snow is whirling, hello, white winter," sang a child walking with his mother along Moscow's Tverskoi Boulevard, according to Tass. The first snow is always a joy for children, and a tonic for most adult Moscovites who take pride in their ability to endure severe winters. Last year's Russian winter was one of the warmest this century, but meteorologists are predicting that the one ahead will be colder than usual.




Where Is Winter?

 The past two unusually warm winters in eastern and central Europe have caused 30 clothing companies in Finland to go bankrupt. Exports of Finnish winter garments to the Soviet Union were nearly halted. Huge stockpiles of unsold heavy clothing were also reported in Norway.


Blooming Mystery

 Botanists in New England are trying to figure out why some fluffy yellow wildflowers normally found along the Atlantic beaches have started to grow along stretches of inland highways. Leslie J. Jehroff, a botanist with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, said: "There are not many cases where you can watch a native plant undergo this kind of apparently rapid explosion into new habitats." The biggest mystery is why the seaside goldenrod has spread to some highways but not others.


Earthquakes

 Moderate earth movements were felt in northern California, northeastern Japan, and on several islands in the eastern Aegean Sea.

Testing


 The United States exploded a nuclear bomb with a force of less than 20 kilotons at its Nevada Test Site on Wednesday.

Rogue 'Roos

 Police in Woodgate, Australia, may have to shoot hundreds of potentially dangerous kangaroos which have invaded the Queensland seaside resort. A dozen people have been attacked since the normally docile marsupials moved in. Irritable rogue males, with sharp claws and powerful tails, have attacked humans who get too close. Brent Smith, a senior constable, warned: "The potential for a fatal attack is there especially if

a big buck turns on a child. They can tear a man's stomach open with one slash from their claws." Unseasonable rains caused a kangaroo population explosion early this year in the Woodgate National park, adjacent to the township. Now hundreds of the animals feed on the resort's lush gardens and lawns.

The Birds

 Terrified residents of Kiryat Hayim, Israel, ran into their homes in panic as a flock of nearly 70 ravens attacked their town. "It was exactly like Hitchcock's movie 'The Birds'," said Police Chief Superintendent Roni Raz. The large, sharp-beaked birds flew through open windows of an apartment building and scratched at least one man during a three-hour attack. Residents of the small town near the port of Haifa sounded sirens and made loud noises to drive out the birds, but they soon returned. Police gunfire finally scared the angry flock away.



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


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
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Wintry Winds

 High winds, in the wake of the previous week's swarm of devastating tornadoes, buffeted several areas of the north-eastern United States. Winds of 63 miles per hour were blamed for the death of a Baltimore woman who was killed when a warehouse fell on her home. Snow from the same cold front was responsible for the deaths of two young men in western Pennsylvania whose pickup truck slammed into a tractor-trailer. High winds lifted a parked Continental Airlines Boeing 727 jetliner and dropped it on a baggage cart and fuel truck at Newark International Airport. No passengers were on board at the time, but a worker inside the craft's baggage area suffered minor injuries. Three Boeing 747 jets were blown about by winds of up to 45 miles per hour at New York's Kennedy International Airport.


Lightning Tragedy

 Seven people, including six from one family, were killed by a single bolt of lightning that struck their hut and set it on fire in eastern Zimbabwe. The southern African nation is often lashed by severe thunderstorms, and is named in the Guinness Book of Records for the most people killed by a single bolt. Twenty-one men, women and children died in the Eastern Highlands village of Chinamasa when lightning struck their hut on December 23, 1975.


Ravenous Rats

 Rats devour or destroy nearly a half-million tons of grain in impoverished Bangladesh each year, enough to feed at least three million people, according to a report in the Bengali-language newspaper *Dainik Bangla*. The rat population reaches its peak during November and December when winter crops are harvested. Authorities then launch an annual rat-killing campaign.

Typhoon Alley


 Typhoon Hunt lashed the northern Philippines with high surf and winds of up to 100 miles per hour before it was broken up by the rough terrain of the Sierra Madre mountain range east of Manila. Before dissipating, the storm veered suddenly northward into palm-covered Quezon province, sparing densely-populated metropolitan Manila. At least six people died when their small motor boat capsized in heavy seas as the storm approached the eastern coast. Hunt was the fifth major storm to strike the Philippines since June.

Earthquakes


 Two strong quakes killed four people and wrecked 1,000 homes near Chongqing in China's Sichuan province on Nov. 20. An undetermined number of livestock were also killed by the quakes which registered 5.2 and 5.4 on the Richter scale. Later

the same day, four people died from damage inflicted by a powerful earthquake that rocked the Iranian towns of Shahdad and Golbaf, located 520 miles southeast of Tehran. Earth tremors in southeast Tunisia forced schools to close and a phosphate mine to halt operation on Nov. 18.

Polynesian Test

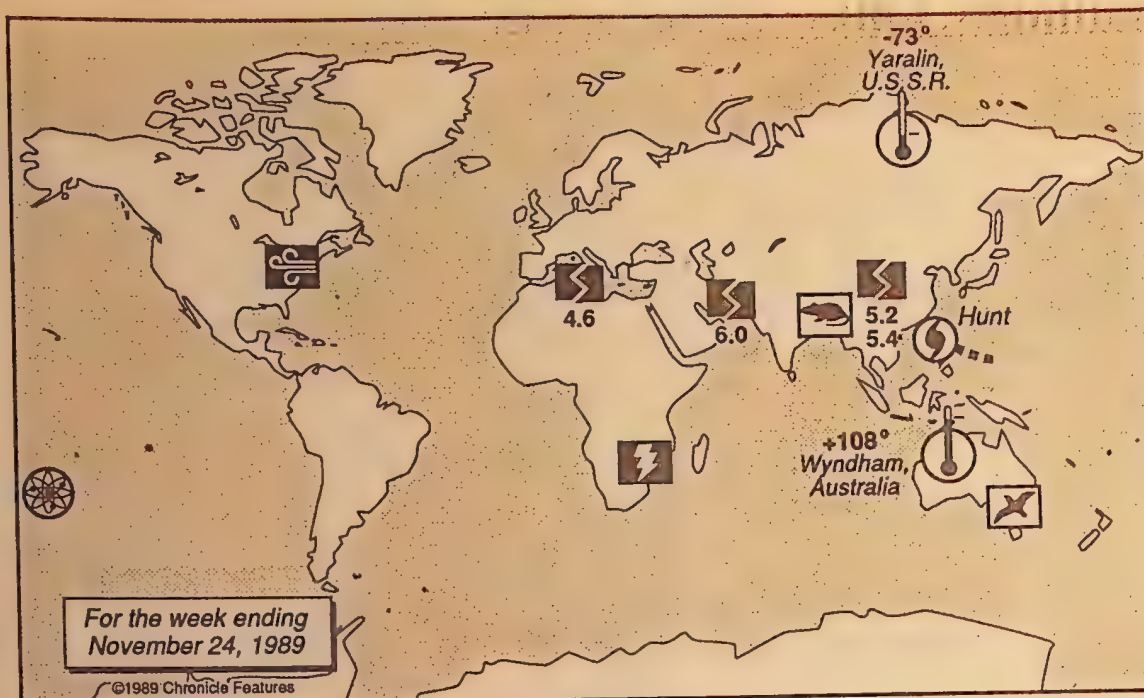
 New Zealand seismologists detected another nuclear blast at France's Mururoa Atoll test site on Nov. 20. It was the third in a new and unannounced series of tests that began nearly a month ago. Australia, New Zealand and other South Pacific nations bitterly denounced the explosion. The test was recorded by a seismograph based on Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. Funding for the instrument came partially from compensation paid to New Zealand by France for the 1985 bombing of the Greenpeace boat "Rainbow Warrior" in Auckland harbor.

Christmas Birds

 Australian wildlife officials warned that thousands of young cockatoos are being captured in forests to wind up under the tree as the ultimate Christmas gift.

Graeme Bowley, an officer with the Victoria Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, said an increasing number of birds were being snatched while pre-Christmas demand was high. Baby cockatoos, easily accessible in tree hollows, are becoming illegal holiday offerings around Australia, and are being smuggled abroad. Only 10 percent of those birds are said to survive the overseas journey. Victoria state currently counts at least five types of cockatoos on its endangered species list.

Additional Sources: Manila Weather Bureau, U.S. Military Joint Typhoon Warning Center at Guam, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.



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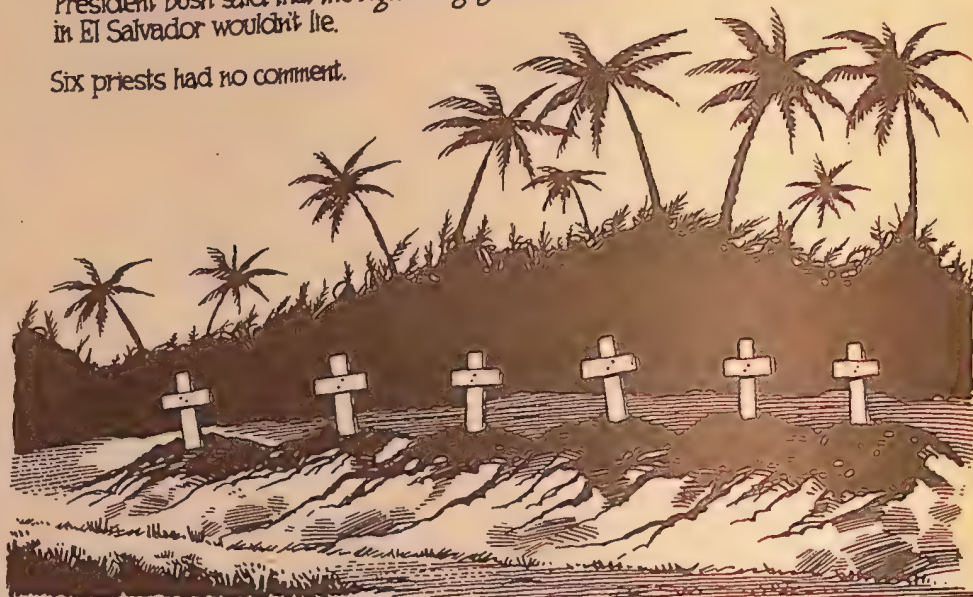
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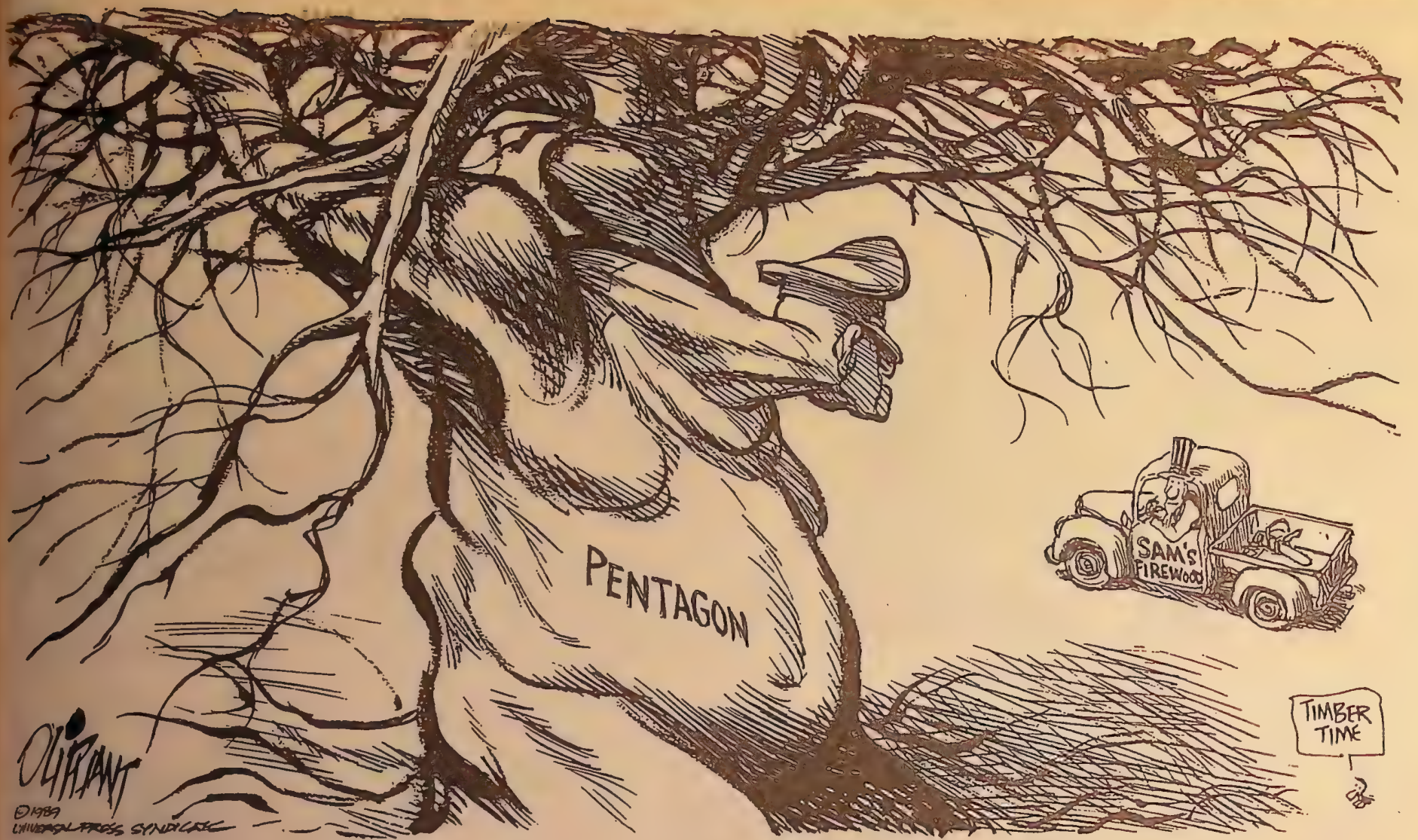


President Bush said that the right-wing government in El Salvador wouldn't lie.
Six priests had no comment.



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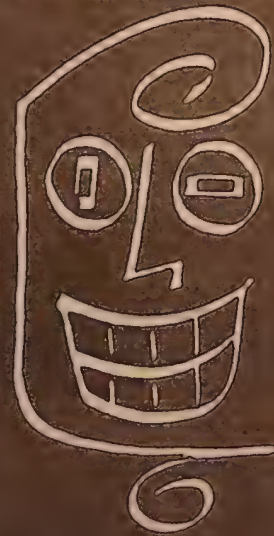


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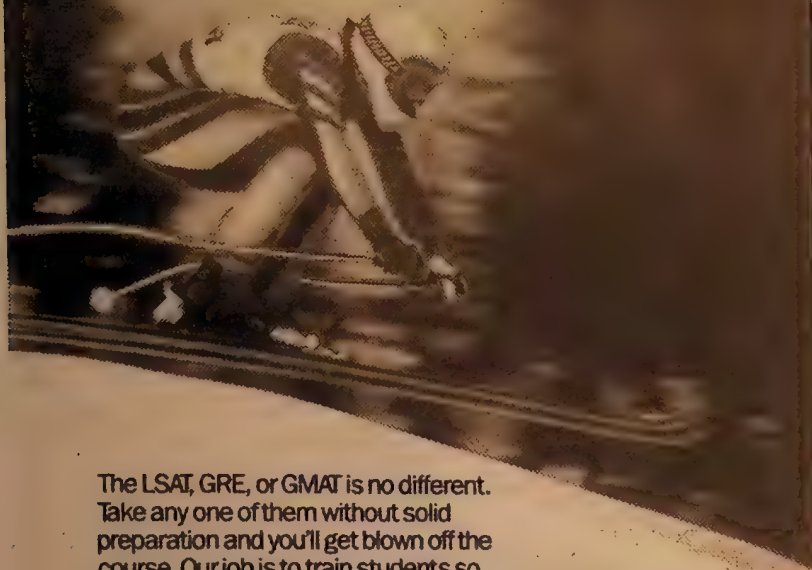
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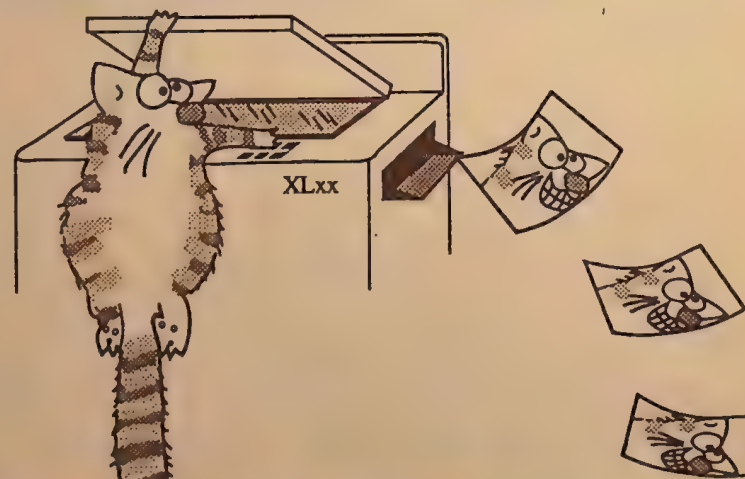
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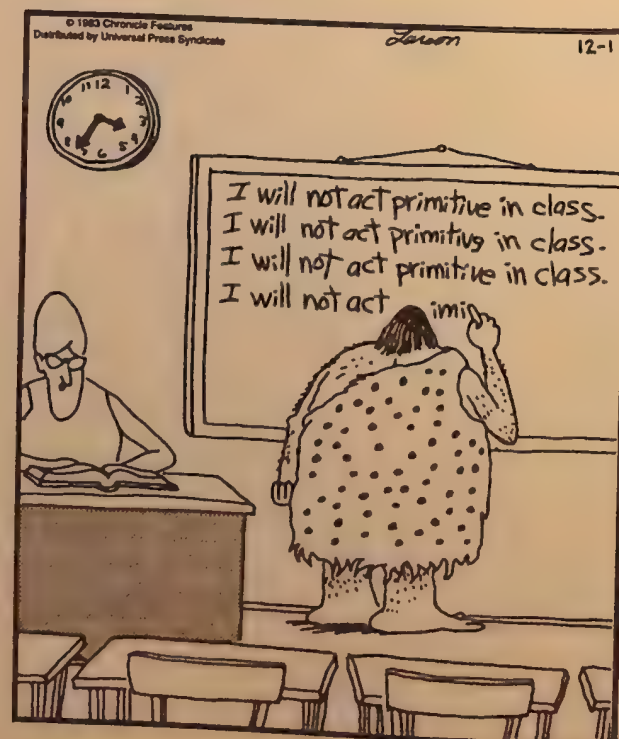
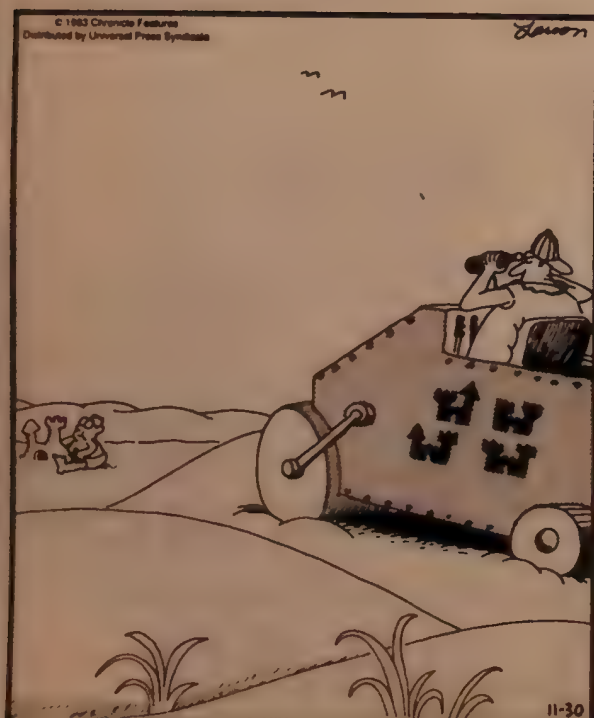
photos by Stan Shetter

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"OK... which of you is the one they call
'Old One-Eyed Dog-Face?'"

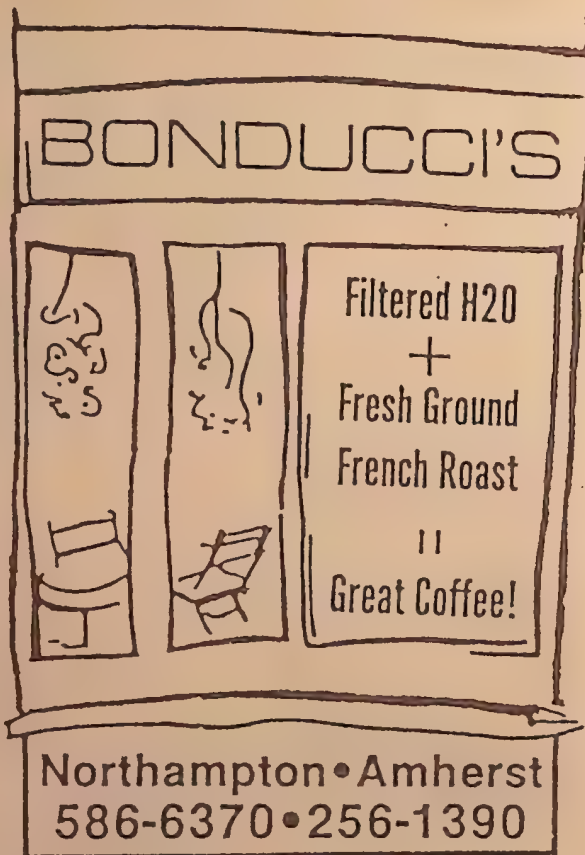
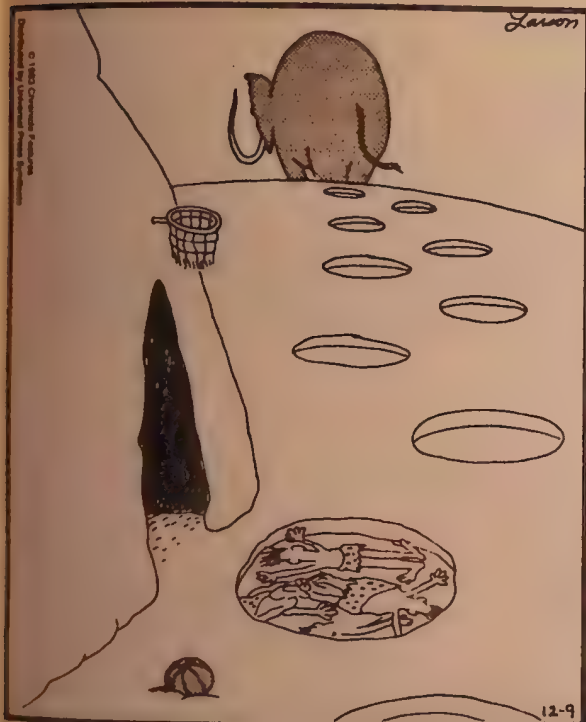




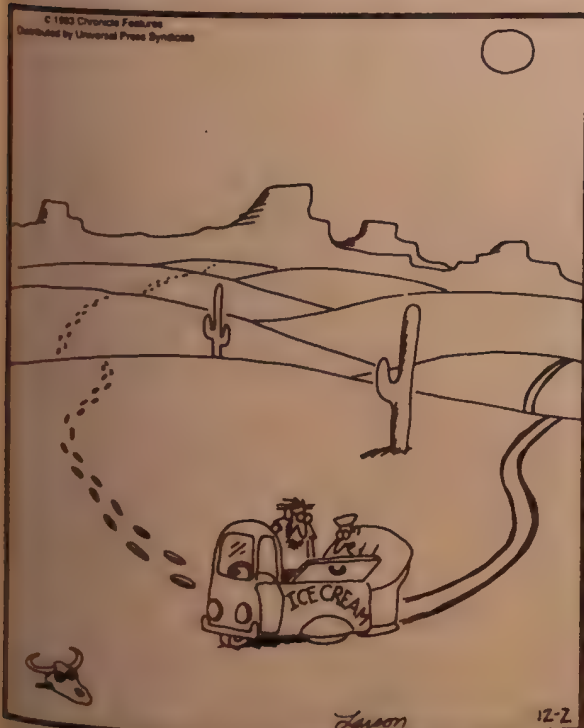
"So, Professor Jenkins! . . . My old nemesis! . . . We meet again, but this time the advantage is mine! Ha! Ha! Ha!"



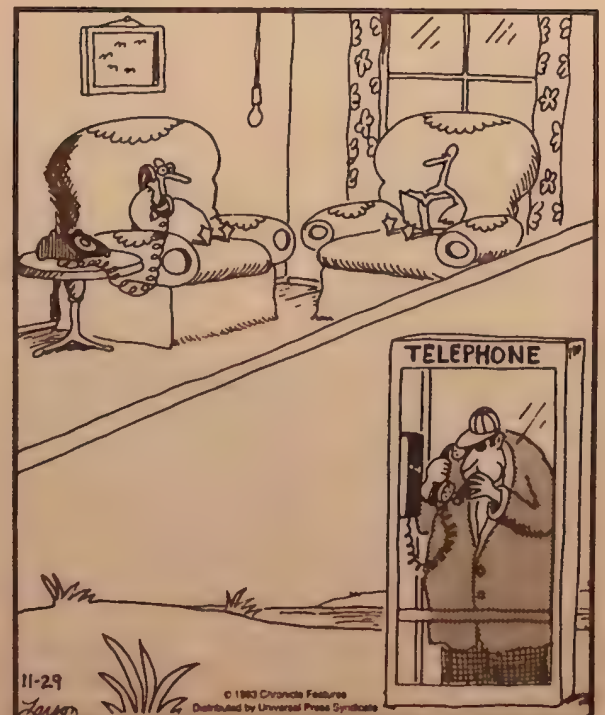
"Hang him, you idiots! Hang him! 'String him up' is a figure of speech!"



Suddenly, only a mile into the race, Ernie gets a nose cramp.



"Let's see . . . no orange . . . no root beer . . . no Fudgesicles . . . Well, for crying out loud! Am I out of everything?"



Obscene duck call.



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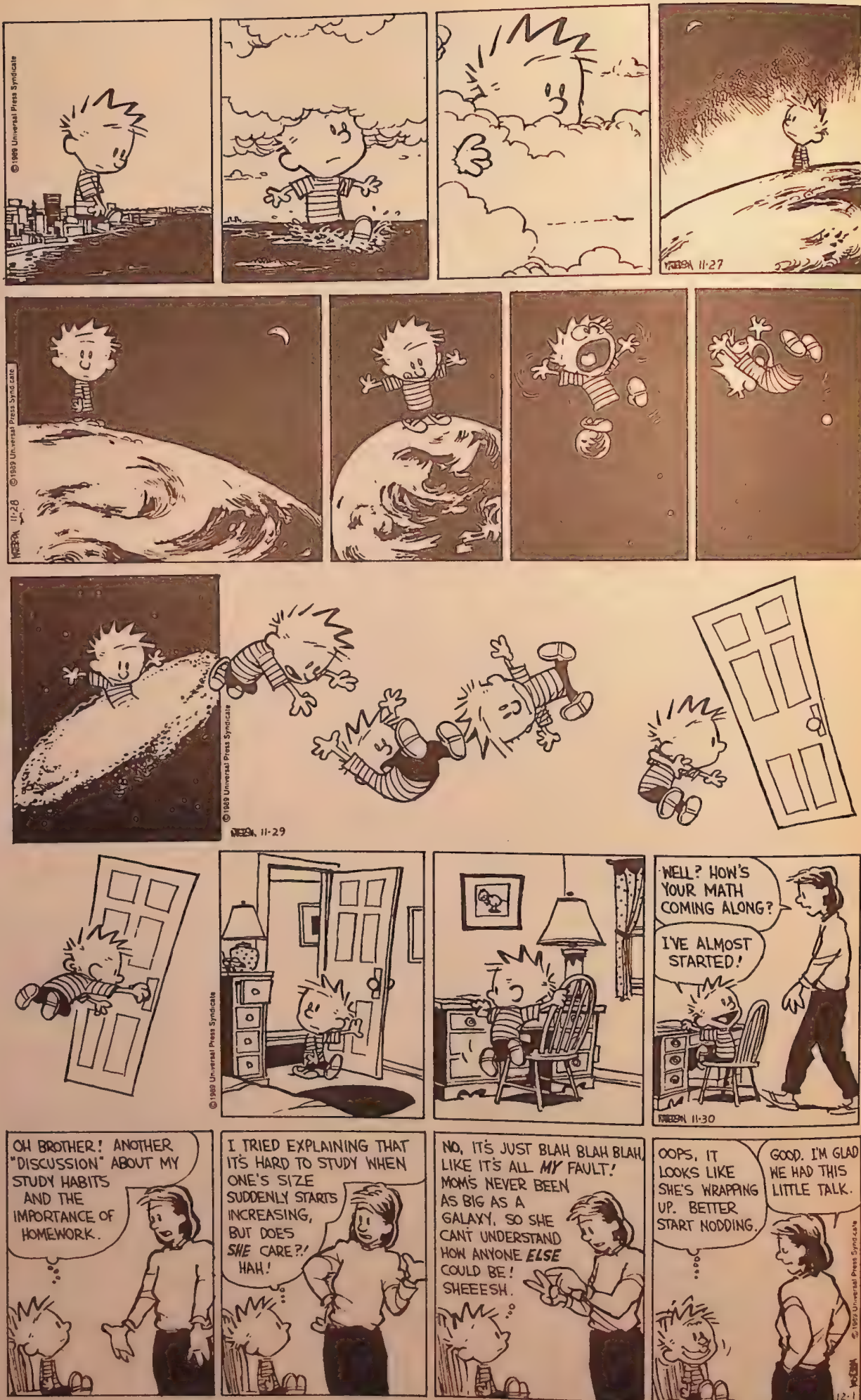
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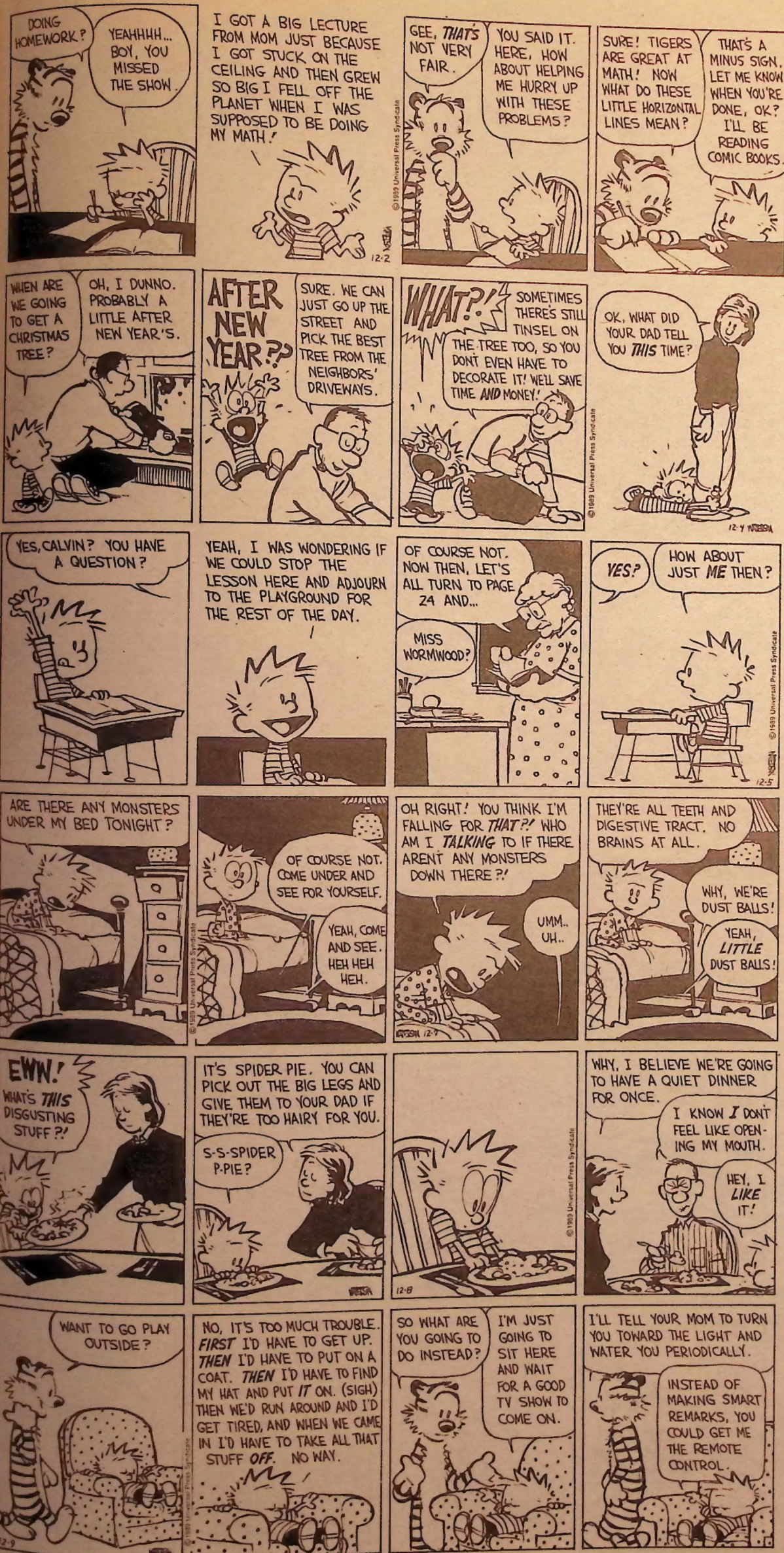
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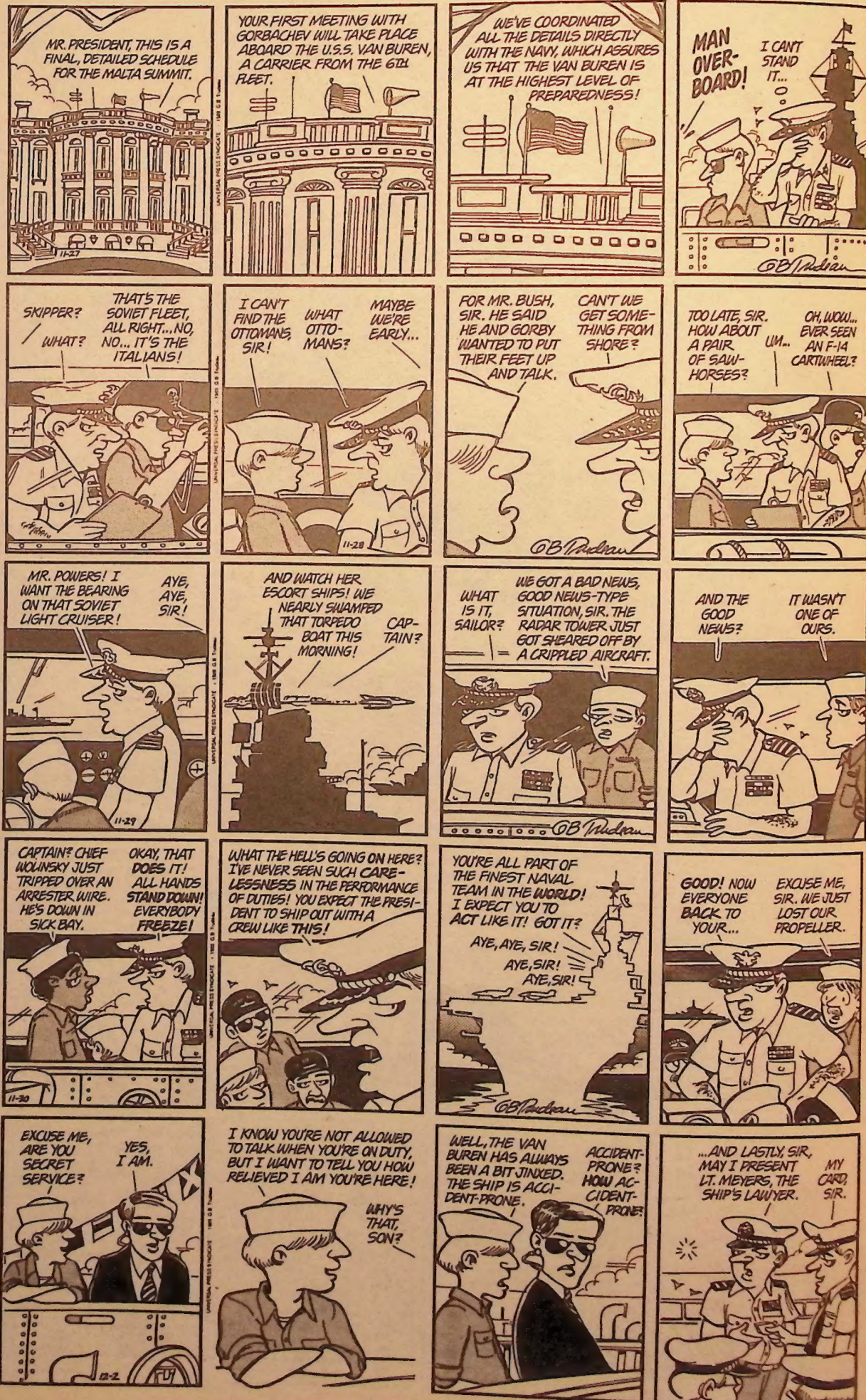
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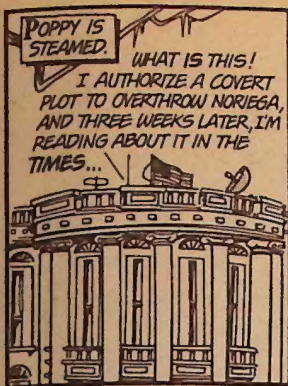
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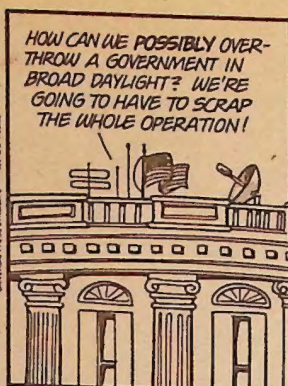
BY G.B. TRUDEAU



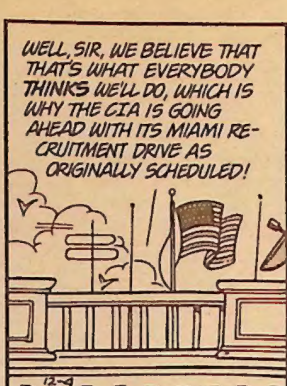


POPPY IS STEAMED.

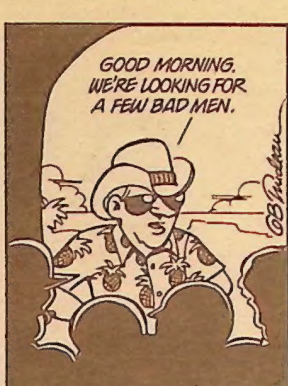
WHAT IS THIS! I AUTHORIZE A COVERT PLOT TO OVERTHROW NORIEGA, AND THREE WEEKS LATER, I'M READING ABOUT IT IN THE TIMES...



HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY OVERTHROW A GOVERNMENT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT? WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SCRAP THE WHOLE OPERATION!



WELL, SIR, WE BELIEVE THAT THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY THINKS WE'LL DO, WHICH IS WHY THE CIA IS GOING AHEAD WITH ITS MIAMI RECRUITMENT DRIVE AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED!

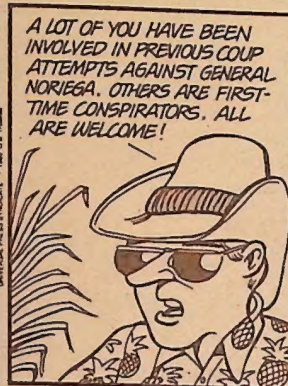


GOOD MORNING. WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW BAD MEN.

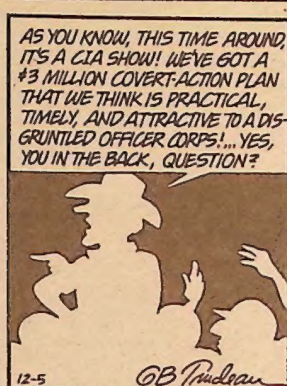


HAVOC, RECRUITING PANAMANIAN REBELS, IS IN HOG HEAVEN.

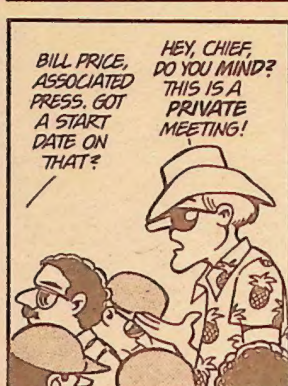
IT'S GREAT TO SEE SO MANY FAMILIAR FACES HERE TODAY...



A LOT OF YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN PREVIOUS COUP ATTEMPTS AGAINST GENERAL NORIEGA. OTHERS ARE FIRST-TIME CONSPIRATORS. ALL ARE WELCOME!

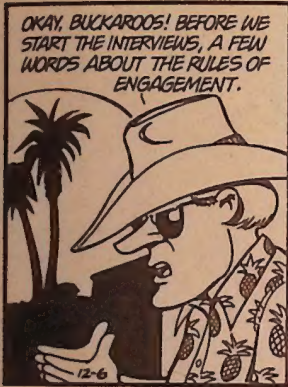


AS YOU KNOW, THIS TIME AROUND, IT'S A CIA SHOW! WE'VE GOT A \$3 MILLION COVERT-ACTION PLAN THAT WE THINK IS PRACTICAL, TIMELY, AND ATTRACTIVE TO A DISGRUNTLED OFFICER CORPS!... YES, YOU IN THE BACK, QUESTION?

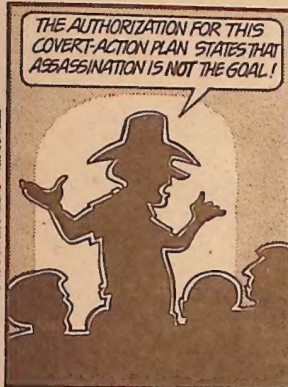


BILL PRICE, ASSOCIATED PRESS. GOT A START DATE ON THAT?

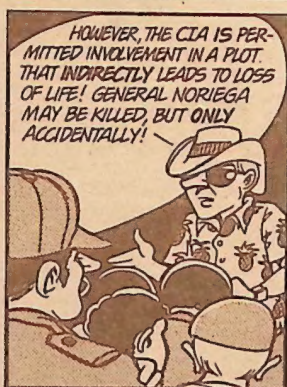
HEY, CHIEF, DO YOU MIND? THIS IS A PRIVATE MEETING!



OKAY, BUCKAROO! BEFORE WE START THE INTERVIEWS, A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT.



THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS COVERT-ACTION PLAN STATES THAT ASSASSINATION IS NOT THE GOAL!

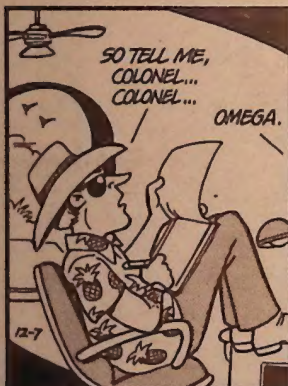


HOWEVER, THE CIA IS PERMITTED INVOLVEMENT IN A PLOT THAT INDIRECTLY LEADS TO LOSS OF LIFE! GENERAL NORIEGA MAY BE KILLED, BUT ONLY ACCIDENTALLY!



"ACCI-DENTALLY," SENOR?

FAULTY TOASTER, HAIR DRYER IN HIS TUB - THAT SORT OF THING.

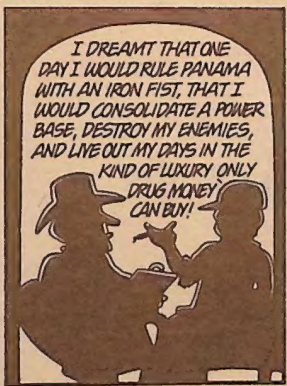


SO TELL ME, COLONEL... COLONEL... COLONEL...

OMEGA.



COLONEL OMEGA. BECAUSE, SENOR HAVOC, WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN, I HAD A DREAM! TO OVERTHROW YOUR GOVERNMENT?

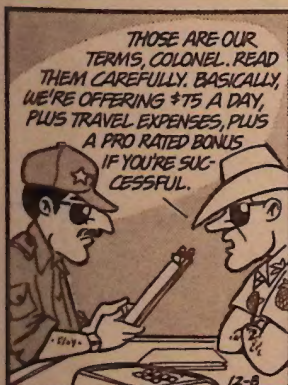


I DREAMT THAT ONE DAY I WOULD RULE PANAMA WITH AN IRON FIST, THAT I WOULD CONSOLIDATE A POWER BASE, DESTROY MY ENEMIES, AND LIVE OUT MY DAYS IN THE KIND OF LUXURY ONLY DRUG MONEY CAN BUY!

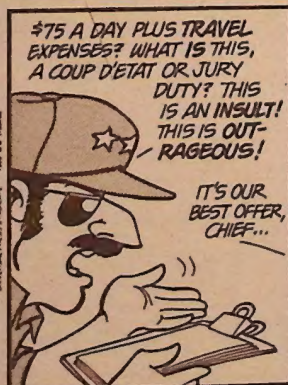


BIG DREAMS FROM THE BARRIO. ALWAYS TOUCHING.

NO, NO, I WAS AT WEST POINT AT THE TIME.



THOSE ARE OUR TERMS, COLONEL. READ THEM CAREFULLY. BASICALLY, WE'RE OFFERING \$75 A DAY, PLUS TRAVEL EXPENSES, PLUS A PRO RATED BONUS IF YOU'RE SUCCESSFUL.



\$75 A DAY PLUS TRAVEL EXPENSES? WHAT IS THIS, A COUP D'ETAT OR JURY DUTY? THIS IS AN INSULT! THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS!

IT'S OUR BEST OFFER, CHIEF...

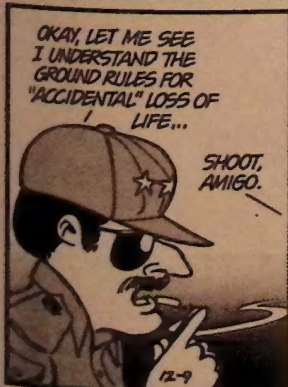


EVERYONE ELSE IS WORKING FOR SCALE, TOO. YOU PULL OFF THE COUP, YOU'LL GET A NICE TASTE ON THE BACK END. TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.



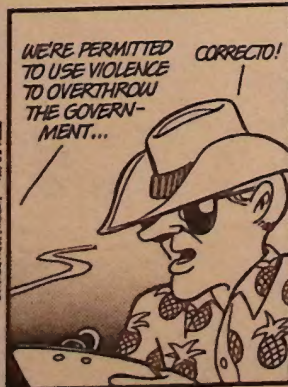
GOD, I HATE WORKING FOR FOREIGN POWERS!

HEY, JAPAN OWNS US! LIFE'S TOUGH ALL OVER!



OKAY, LET ME SEE I UNDERSTAND THE GROUND RULES FOR "ACCIDENTAL" LOSS OF LIFE...

SHOOT, AMIGO.



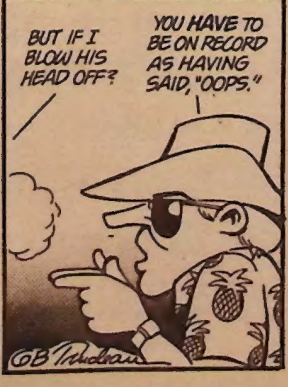
WE'RE PERMITTED TO USE VIOLENCE TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT...

CORRECTO!



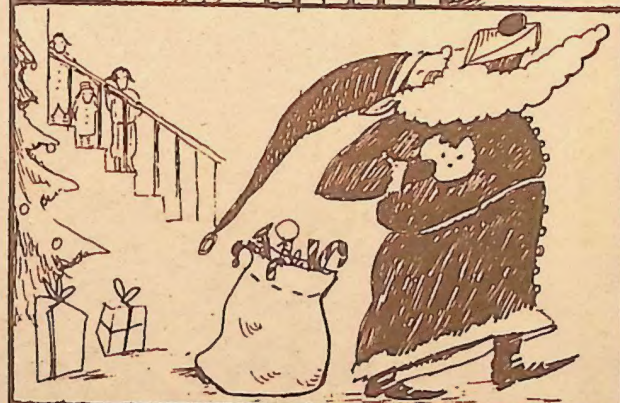
SO I CAN ENTER NORIEGA'S OFFICE FORCEFULLY WITH A WEAPON...

RIGHT AGAIN!



BUT IF I BLOW HIS HEAD OFF?

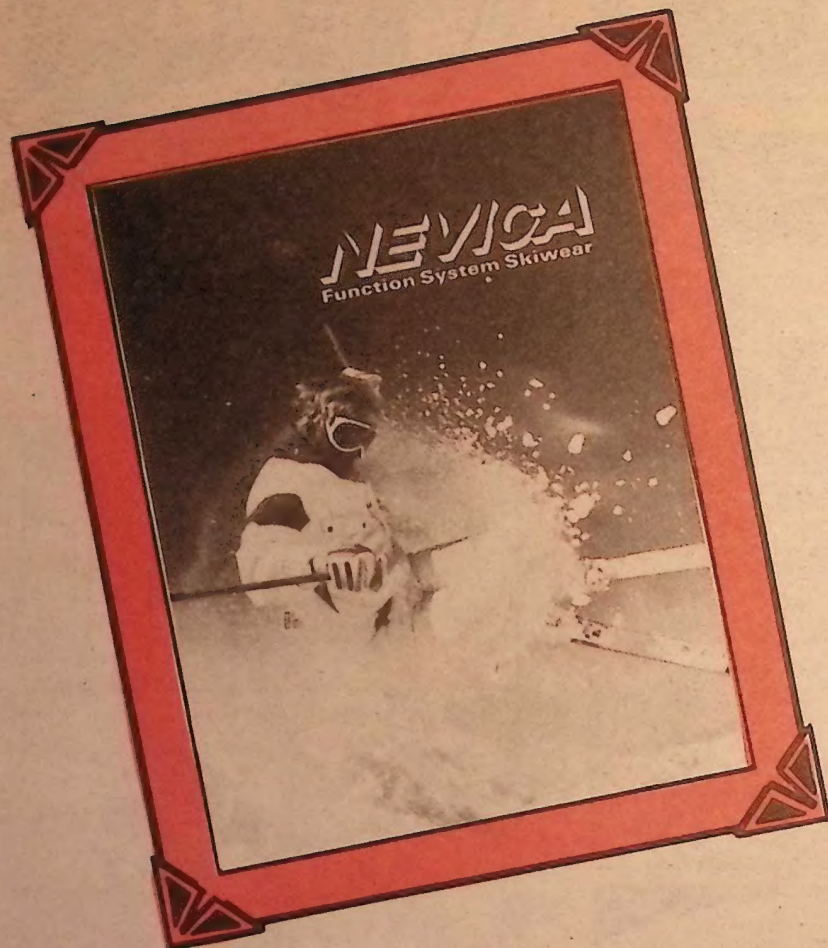
YOU HAVE TO BE ON RECORD AS HAVING SAID, "OOPS."



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